ENTERTAINMENT / E1

Sharon writes about 'Penguin' docu narration

BUSINESS / B2-1

Group's roadmap on nation-building focuses on cities

ACROSS / A20

Palparan declares victory over Reds in N. Ecija town

WORLD / A27

Obesity a deadly global epidemic, say experts

Why it's summertime again this September

MALILIGO NA NAMAN TAYO SA PAWIS!

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE SWEATING PUBLIC will get no respite from the warm, humid temperature just yet, the country's weather bureau said.

The Philippine Atmo-

WHY IT'S/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, September 4, 2006 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 268 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Spain rips Greece, rules World Championship

SAITAMA, JAPAN—WITH INJURED PAU GASOL cheering on his teammates from the bench, Spain beat Greece 70-47 Sunday to claim its first gold medal in World Championship history.

The 2.13-meter (7-foot) Gasol led Spain (9-0) in scoring and rebounding throughout the tournament. When he broke his foot with about a minute left in the 75-74 semifinal win over Argentina, his team's gold-medal hopes dimmed considerably.

SPAIN RIPS/ A19

Security officials go after terror expert

Footage shown to 50 in antiterror seminar

By Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor

THE MYSTERY MAN WHO SAID HE WAS ABLE to smuggle bomb components onto a domestic airliner is now the target of an intense investigation aimed at ferreting him out and finding out who was behind it all.

When he breached the security networks at two premier domestic airports in the country, the civilian antiterrorism expert knew he was testing the limits and taking great risks because he could get caught and end up in jail for possessing explosive components he knew very well were illegal.

Knowing the delicate nature of the operation, the man made it clear he did not want his name or that of the person who asked him to do the job revealed.

He referred to the man as the "boss."

He said the "boss" was concerned about the adequacy of security measures at airports and wanted to know if the system really worked.

The "boss" also wanted no one to know about the exercise "because what is the point of doing it if everybody is prepared," said the security expert.

At a restaurant in Quezon City, the expert used a laptop to play

SECURITY/ A18

JESS YUSON

THE SECURITY CHECK continues, but this time more thoroughly by luggage inspectors at a counter of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport following the reported "bomb test" by a counterterrorism expert.

9/11 kin illegally in US uneasy over riches

NEW YORK—ONE WIDOW HAS more than $2 million but walks or rides the bus everywhere, terrified of drawing attention.

Another millionaire widow stopped going to 9/11 support groups because she feared that the families of police officers and firefighters might betray her.

A widower has enough money to start a business building houses, but cannot buy himself a home.

All three people lost a husband or a wife when the World Trade Center collapsed. Like thousands of others, they were beneficiaries of the federal Sept. 11 Victim Compensation Fund, which awarded millions of dollars to families whose loved ones died in the attacks.

But a secret sets these three people apart: Like their spouses who died, each is in the country illegally.

Even though the government compensated them richly for their losses, making them wealthier than they ever dreamed, the money did not change their immigration status. They fear they could be deported any day.

Five years after the terrorist attacks, these three people are living with extraordinary contradictions.

Long accustomed to stashing dollar bills in coffee cans, they became millionaires overnight. But because they do not have social security numbers or work visas, they cannot get mortgages or driver's licenses.

They say they have spent little of the money, afraid of attracting notice.

Their spouses were labeled heroes, their names emblazoned on placards ringing Ground Zero.

9/11 KIN/ A8

Smuggler of 'bomb' pinpointed

By Nikko Dizon and Dennis Jay Santos
Inquirer Mindanao

IT WAS A DEEP OPERATION AND they have identified the man who had carried it out.

Aviation officials yesterday refused to name the antiterrorism expert who said he had succeeded in smuggling bomb components onto two domestic flights, pending completion of their investigation into the incident that had prompted an upgrade of security measures to prevent terror attacks on the country's airports or airplanes.

Chief Supt. Andres Caro, director of the Philippine National Police-Aviation Security Group (PNP-ASG), said he had talked to the

SMUGGLER/ A18

JACINTO: Doctor-turned-nurse sends sob story from the Big Apple. INQUIRER PHOTO

No greener pasture for topnotcher

By Gerry Lirio

THE GRASS OUTSIDE THE Philippines is not always greener. So Elmer Jacinto, the topnotcher in the 2004 medical board exams who decided to leave for the United States and work as a nurse instead, has realized.

A 30-year-old native of Lamitan, Basilan, who graduated magna cum laude from the Our Lady of Fatima University's College of Medicine in Valenzuela City, Jacinto flew to New York after taking his oath two years ago.

Jacinto, who finished his premed course of nursing at the Western Mindanao State University, cum laude, landed a job that dismally fell short of his expectations, way below what his placement firm, Sentosa Recruitment Agency, had promised him.

Now, he and 27 other Filipino nurses recruited by Sentosa are locked in a legal battle in New York. Like Jacinto, most of the

NO GREENER/ A8

Video shows hole in bow of oil tanker

By Leila B. Salaverria

VIDEO TAKEN BY JAPANESE EXperts shows a hole in the bow of the MT Solar I that indicates it may have struck a container van that fell off a cargo vessel in stormy waters, causing the tanker to sink and bunker fuel oil to spill into the sea, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

Testimony based on initial findings given to a closed-door hearing of the Special Board of Marine Inquiry on Friday also revealed that one of the 10 tanks aboard the ill-fated vessel—designated as No. 4 port tank—was completely empty.

Another tank—designated as No. 2—was leaking very slowly, about a few drops every few seconds from the hatch, according to the testimony reported to the INQUIRER by a probe participant.

The participant declined to be named because he represented one of the parties involved in the investigation. The identity of the expert who testified also was withheld, citing the need to protect the integrity of his final report. The Japanese had requested the private hearing.

The footage taken by the remote-operated vessel (ROV) sent down by experts from the Japanese research vessel MT Shinsei Maru last week also showed a steady, minimal stream of oil leaking out like a thread from the ventilation pipe. The vent has a valve, but there was a possibility that the ROV's manipulator arm might shear it off if it tries to close it and if the rotation is not done properly. The arm also could seal off the vent.

The 10 tanks inside the Solar I contained a total of 2 million liters of bunker fuel when it went down on Aug. 11 in rough seas off Guimaras Island, causing the worst oil spill in the nation's history and polluting a 220-km coastline, fertile fishing grounds,

VIDEO/ A6

STAR WANNABES
"Starstruck" winner Ryza Cenon (left) and finalist LJ Reyes greet the crowd outside the GMA 7 station in Quezon City during the launch of the nationwide star search. *(Story on Page A10.)* RAFFY LERMA

Proclamation No. 1017: Policy matrix of slaughter

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS, the Arroyo administration has launched a crash program consisting of:

- Crushing the communist insurgency in two years.
- Killing of the second impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo within "six working session days" of the House of Representatives.
- Filing at least 10 cases in 10 weeks against those responsible for the epidemic of killings of leftists and journalists.
- Transforming the country into five super economic regions in the next three years.

All these programs have a deadline. With this agenda, the administration looks like a house on fire, or, to use another metaphor, a bullet train.

This is neither the first Arroyo administration nor its first 100 days. All these launching platforms that could have set the national agenda taking off have been squandered and knocked down.

Ms Arroyo is now in the midterm of her second administration, and the nation stands squeezed in a gridlock. Her regime is stuck in a legitimacy conflict that has paralyzed all her initiatives and impaired its capacity to move the nation forward.

True, there has been economic growth (struggling to stay afloat

PROCLAMATION/ A23

Second FRONT PAGE

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Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent over the eastern section of Visayas. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

SOURCE: **PAGASA**

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/09/03/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

Gov't-MILF peace talks to resume 'in a few days'

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE PEACE TALKS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) are set to resume in the "next few days" in Kuala Lumpur.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday the resumption of the GRP-MILF peace talks was disclosed to him by Silvestre Afable, who heads the government panel in the peace negotiations with the MILF.

"The government has made a proposal to resolve the impasse on territory and this will be discussed," Bunye said in reference to the contentious issue of "ancestral domain."

Afable was confident the talks "will continue to move forward to an early agreement," according to Bunye.

MILF chief negotiator Mohager Iqbal confirmed the resumption of the peace talks.

No deal this year

But Iqbal said the MILF did not believe a final peace accord could be signed within the year as the government had predicted.

"We will meet in Kuala Lumpur in the next few days and we will discuss some important matters, but we don't believe that a peace deal is likely, but we may extend the peace talks beyond September," Iqbal said without giving specific dates.

Both sides will attempt to break an impasse on the issue of "ancestral domain" or areas in Mindanao that the MILF considers to be traditional Muslim territory, Iqbal said.

"There are still some contentious issues and these are the scope of Muslim territories under the ancestral domain and how the government and the MILF would share the resources in these areas," he said.

Officials had acknowledged that the "ancestral domain issue" remained the only stumbling block to signing a peace deal with the MILF.

"We cannot see any peace deal by September, not even this year unless the government and MILF agree on the proposals," Iqbal said.

The government and the MILF had managed to avoid skirmishes between their forces since forged a ceasefire agreement in 2001 and agreed to a joint ceasefire committee with foreign observers.

Last Friday, President Macapagal-Arroyo lauded the fact that the ceasefire agreement continued to hold between the two sides.

Sweden and Japan announced they were are also sending teams to monitor the ceasefire.

Swedish officials on Friday met with MILF leaders in Maguindanao to relay their country's decision to send a 10-man contingent which will join the international peace monitors in Mindanao.

Ambassador-at-large Lena Sundh and the Swedish ambassador to the Philippines Annika Markovic met with MILF chief Ebrahim Murad at Camp Darapanan in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao.

Agreement with MNLF

Earlier this week, Japan's minister of foreign affairs for Southeast Asian desk Akio Isomata told Murad in Darapanan that Japan would send a development expert to monitor relief, rehabilitation and development projects in the conflict-affected areas.

In his "View from the Palace" column in another daily, Bunye said the government was working "tirelessly and relentlessly" to achieve peace in Mindanao, and this included not only firming up a peace pact with the MILF but fully implementing the government's peace pact with the Moro National Liberation Front, which marked its 10th anniversary the other day. *(See related story in Across the Nation, page A21.)*

He said that "substantial progress" had been made in phase one of the GRP-MNLF peace agreement which covers security and political matters but "we have yet to see the full implementation of phase two of the agreement which consists of the economic package."

Creating a new paradigm

"While the government is working double-time with our international partners to have this realized, still much depends on the peace situation on the ground," Bunye said as he pointed out the need for the government to deal with terrorist groups in Mindanao as well as "move" forward with our peace talks with the MILF."

Bunye said President Arroyo was determined to achieve peace in the South and that indeed the government was "creating a new paradigm for dealing with conflict through interfaith dialogue, global engagement and economic assistance."

"The President believes that if we succeed in Mindanao, we will offer the world a new way to resolve conflicts," he said.

"It would also allow us to isolate true terrorists and wipe them from the map," he said. "Thus we are working side by side with the American military to improve our military capability in terrorist response and, in real time, to eliminate the JI and Abu Sayyaf who stubbornly cling to their remote outposts." *With reports from AFP and Jeffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

BAR EXAMINEES must hurdle a gauntlet of well-wishers waving balloons and throwing confetti before they can get on the La Salle campus.

RYAN LIM

Balloons, bands, confetti mark start of bar exams

By Leila B. Salaverria

ASPIRING LAWYERS BEGAN the first of their four-day bar exams yesterday, unperturbed by the scandal rocking the government-administered board exams for nursing.

Amid a festive atmosphere complete with balloons, confetti and marching bands, the bar examinees expressed confidence the integrity of the Supreme Court, which administers the bar exams, was assurance enough that there would not be any irregularities unlike in the nursing licensure exams.

The results of the June 2006 nursing exams, conducted by the Professional Regulation Commission, have been under investigation following the revelation that questions in two portions of the exam had been leaked.

Students, nursing associations, college officials and the PRC have taken conflicting stands on whether the exam should be retaken or not.

"I don't think (the nursing exam controversy) will affect the bar exams. The Supreme Court has always maintained its integrity," Jun, a graduate of the University of the East, told the INQUIRER.

Jun, who was lining up outside the exam venue at De La Salle University on Taft Avenue, said the Supreme Court and the PRC were two different government bodies.

He acknowledged the bar exams had been hit with allegations of leakage in the past but, he said, the high tribunal's integrity remained intact.

Omer, a graduate of Holy Name University, agreed with this.

"It's the Supreme Court that oversees the bar exam. The bar exams and the board exams are different from each other," he said.

Other bar examinees said as much as they lined up on Taft Avenue, which was closed to traffic from 4 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Some were still reading their books and reviewing their notes. Others were smiling after being seen off with hugs and kisses by families and friends. There were those who neither smiled nor spoke. They simply stared straight ahead, looking nervous or grim.

In contrast, members of the different law schools' bar exam operations, composed of law students and alumni, cheered and clapped loudly as graduates of their schools walked by. They released balloons, threw confetti, brought along "Ati-Atihan" dancers and hired marching bands to lend moral support to the examinees.

Last year's bar topnotcher, Joan de Venecia, came to cheer on her fellow UP Law grads.

Bar ops members from San Beda College came in red T-shirts and threw red and white confetti—the school's colors. They proudly made their presence felt, despite the dispute between school officials and its former law professors.

Twenty professors had asked the Supreme Court to look into alleged irregularities in the academic process in the college that supposedly allowed six students to obtain their law degrees and qualify to take the bar exams.

A record number of graduates, some 6,344 in all, signed up to take the bar exams this year.

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Presidential award sought for Pinoy who found red spot on Jupiter

THE PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration has urged Malacañang to confer the highest presidential honor on the amateur Filipino astronomer who discovered the Red Spot Junior on the planet Jupiter.

Pagasa space science chief Bernardo Soriano said he had written the Palace recommending that Christopher Go of Cebu be awarded the Order of Lakandula, the same award given to boxing champ Manny Pacquiao.

Go, a 1991 Physics graduate of the University of San Carlos and an avid observer of Jupiter, discovered that the brown spot on the planet, which was previously white in color, had turned brick red.

The Red Spot Junior, estimated to be about the size of the earth, is believed to have been caused by the merging of three white storms on Jupiter.

Go's observation, which was reported to the Jupiter Section of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers, has sparked renewed interest in the planet.

"I think his contribution to science is even greater than the feats of Manny Pacquiao, so he deserves the award," Soriano said. *Blanche S. Rivera*

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Lapus: Past ills caused sorry state of education

By Alcuin Papa

A "CONFLUENCE" OF FACTORS IN THE past decades has led to the present sorry state of the country's educational system, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus said yesterday.

"These factors include a weak economy, low revenues resulting in fiscal deficits, low salaries, unabated population growth, constant infrastructure and teacher shortages, removal of the NCEE (National College Entrance Exam), teacher competency mismatches, the chopping up of a formerly integrated education system, suffrage duties of teachers, usurious loans to teachers repaid through automatic payroll deductions, etc.," Lapus said.

Efforts welcomed

In a statement, Lapus also welcomed efforts by the business sector to improve the education system.

But he stressed that efforts were already being implemented to improve the quality of the education system. He said the Arroyo administration had made education a priority.

"Government has categorically declared education together with infrastructure as its top priorities in spending and focus as evident by its budget proposals," Lapus said.

"Together with a rejuvenated interest and crucial private sector support, we are optimistic that we will eventually succeed in this restoration job. It will not be a walk in the park and we will be continuing the battle," he said.

Bridge program

Lapus also agreed with the businessmen's call for the revival of the pre-tertiary bridge program.

Members of the Philippine Business for Education (PBEd), a newly organized group of chief executive officers (CEOs) and chief operating officers (COOs) of various corporations, have sought the adoption of a basic education reform agenda and a globally responsive post-secondary education system.

This, they said, would make every school perform better and get teachers to continuously improve their teaching skills. They also called for development of the curriculum and extension of the length of formal basic education from the current 10 years to 12.

Stiff opposition

PBEd's proposal to improve the quality of education calls for the re-establishment of the pre-tertiary bridge program which encountered stiff opposition when it was first introduced several years ago.

PBEd noted that the Philippines still had the opportunity "to make the most of a large and growing population of hard-working, English-familiar and relatively educated people."

What needs to be done, the group said, is to broaden and deepen this competitive advantage.

PBEd believes in "an education system that is able to meet the demands of a national effort to successfully compete in the global economy based on the competitiveness of human resources."

Functionally literate

The group stressed that in the level of basic education, schools must enable young learners to master basic competencies to become "functionally literate."

In post-secondary education, PBEd said learning institutions must be able to develop skilled, professional and competitive people by creating, preserving and communicating knowledge.

PBEd was formed after business executives found a need to address the apparent decline in the quality of education in the Philippines as reflected in the results of National Achievement Tests and other examinations here and abroad.

Prov'l schools veering away from nursing after scandal

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—SOME COLLEGES and universities in the provinces are putting nursing in the backseat in favor of agriculture and computer courses.

This appeared to be the common direction some schools were taking in Northern Luzon, Southern Tagalog, the Visayas and Mindanao, based on their output at a conference last week that tried to match world labor trends with college courses, said alternative teaching advocate Henry Tenedero.

Tenedero heads the Center for Learning and Teaching Styles (CLTS) Philippines, which organized the conference attended by representatives of 180 universities and colleges. The group advocates new teaching approaches.

"We did not embark on the conference by promoting one course over another. But the participating universities were already concerned about the long-term impact on the market of the cheating scandal [in the June nursing board examinations] here," Tenedero said.

"The CLTS wanted to promote instead a business management approach to university course selections. Nursing may be a world demand now but after the nursing scandal, what happens? I have two nephews who took this exam and passed, and they are now adversely affected by the controversy," he said.

He said the world offered a much bigger labor pie than the slice nursing got. He cited a Department of Labor and Employment survey that placed agribusiness and computer technology at the top of industries that would require a huge labor force in the future.

But many colleges, he observed, had jumped on the bandwagon and focused on popular courses like nursing. He said it was remarkable to see a computer school offering nursing courses, but such initiatives must be weighed against the sustainability of the "fad."

"Schools must begin to operate like a business that offers knowledge," said Tenedero, referring to the advocacy of Education Secretary Jesli Lapus.

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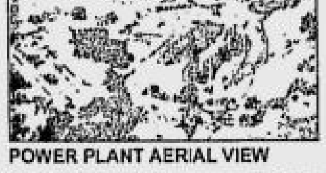
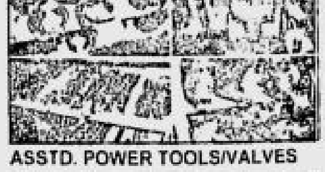

POWER PLANT AERIAL VIEW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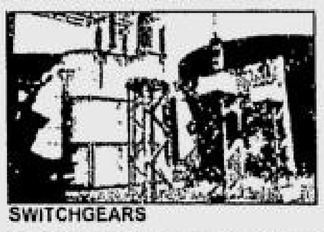
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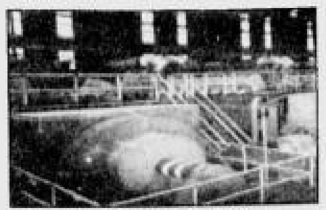
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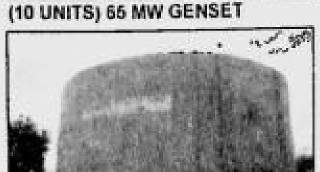
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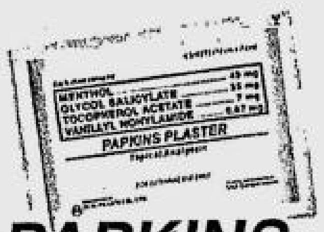
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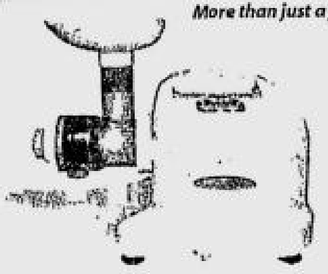

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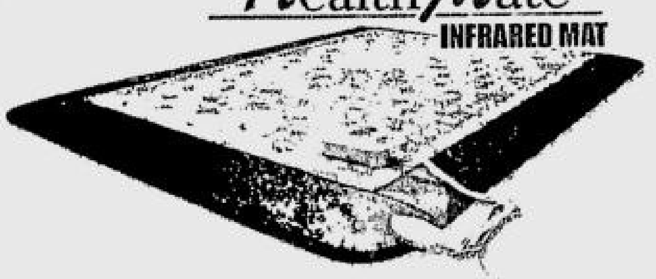

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 4, 2006
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Cor 2:1-5
Gospel: Luke 4:16-30

When Jesus came to Nazareth where he had been brought up, he entered the synagogue on the Sabbath as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Jesus then unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and new sight to the blind; to free the oppressed and announce the Lord's year of mercy."

Jesus then rolled up the scroll, gave it to the attendant and sat down, while the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he said to them, "Today these prophetic words come true even as you listen."

All agreed with him and were lost in wonder, while he kept on speaking of the grace of God. Nevertheless they asked, "Who is this but Joseph's son?" So he said, "Doubtless you will quote me the saying: Doctor, heal yourself! Do here in your town what they say you did in Capernaum."

Jesus added, "No prophet is honored in his own country. Truly, I say to you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens withheld rain for three years and six months and a great famine came over the whole land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow of Zarephath, in the country of Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha, the prophet, and no one was healed except Naaman, the Syrian."

On hearing these words, the whole assembly became indignant. They rose up and brought him out of the town, to the edge of the hill on which Nazareth is built, intending to throw him down the cliff. But he passed through their midst and went his way.

Commentary

We are reminded of the core-heart of our belief and practice—Jesus Christ Crucified—and that we do live 'in fear and trembling,' reliant on the word and Body of Jesus, the power of God in the Incarnation. This is all we have: the Word of God made flesh in Jesus. And this is what we, with Jesus, are baptized for: to bring good news to the poor. And, with Jesus, we will most likely be rejected by family, neighbors and fellow believers. If we live in that power of God the Spirit, as prophets, then we will share to some degree the rage of those who are sure that their god is god, yet have not met God the Father of Jesus Christ's Spirit.

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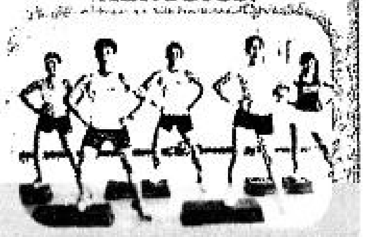

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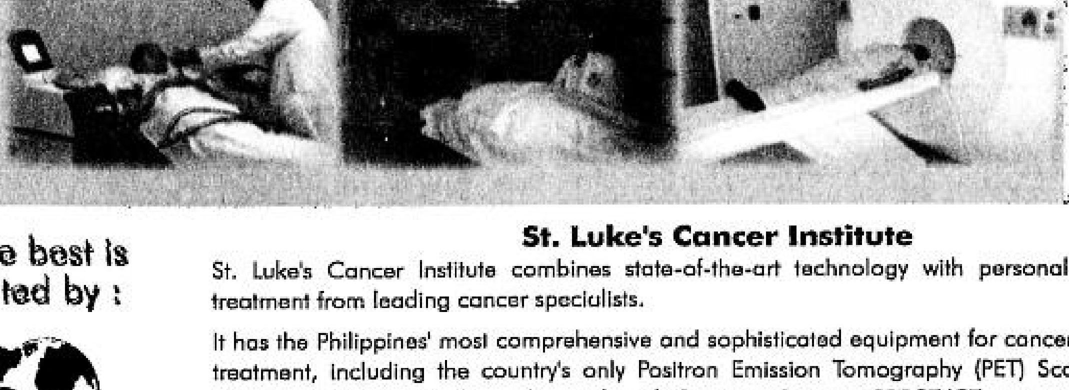

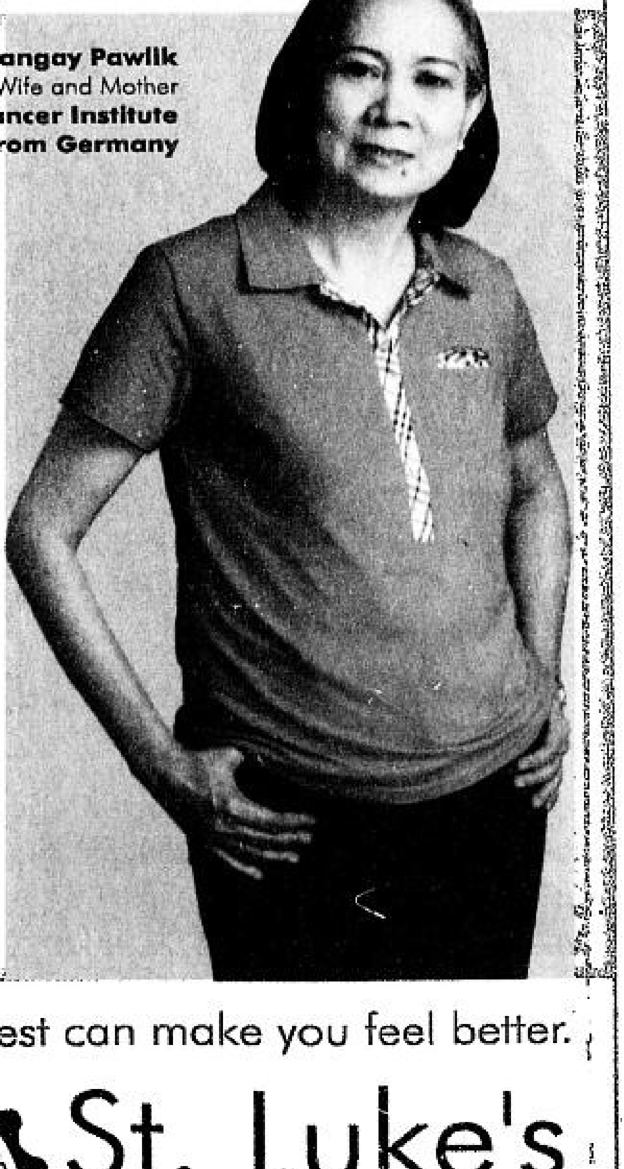

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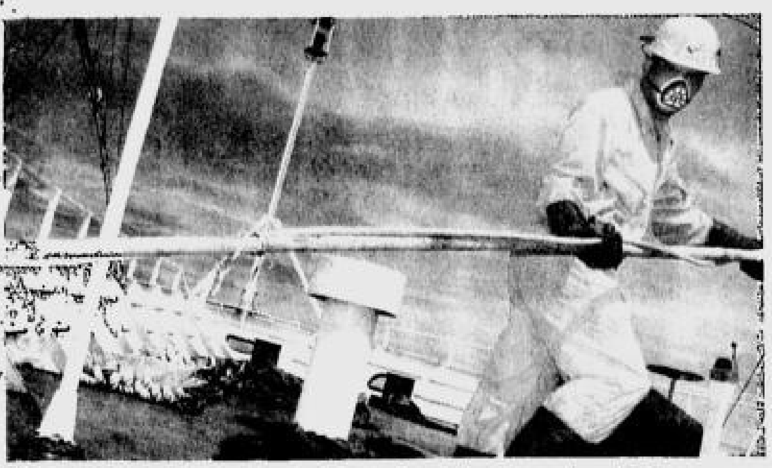
Video shows hole in bow of oil tanker



A MEMBER of the Philippine Coast Guard sprays a chemical dispersant over the oil slick area. ARNOLD ALMACEN/VISAYAS BUREAU

From page A1

pristine marine reserves and white sand beaches popular with tourists.

The ROV, equipped with powerful cameras and an advanced sonar system, began filming on Thursday after it found the tanker sitting 640 meters at the bottom of the sea and leaning slightly to the right.

The Shinsei Maru crew was now focusing on finding out how much crude was left in the sunken vessel and what must be done to stop the leak. Remedial steps would depend on how much crude remained in the tanks.

The board was told that experts were considering using ultrasound equipment to determine the amount of crude oil still in the vessel.

The expert said it was likely that because the tanks had a pressure vacuum they had retained the oil inside.

The video captured a "triangular puncture" on the port side of the vessel below the water line, according to the expert who said the hole was "consistent" with a floating container van. He testified that he thought the Solar I hit the object after it left shelter in Iloilo.

There was also a "crease" on the shell plating on the vessel's starboard. This might have been caused by the impact of the vessel hitting the sea floor.

Seen in Iloilo port

There was no previous testimony about the Solar I hitting an object or a cargo container van. But its skipper, Capt. Norberto Aguro, had earlier said that there was a general cargo vessel at the Iloilo port where the Solar I had taken shelter.

Aguro had told the inquiry that on Aug. 10, the Solar I started taking in water during stormy weather and began leaning on its starboard side. It temporarily docked at an anchorage in Iloilo, where its crew pumped out the seawater and repaired a ventilator.

The captain said he decided to return to the open sea after the weather cleared and there was no report of a typhoon. But after passing Guimaras on Aug. 11, huge waves pounded the vessel.

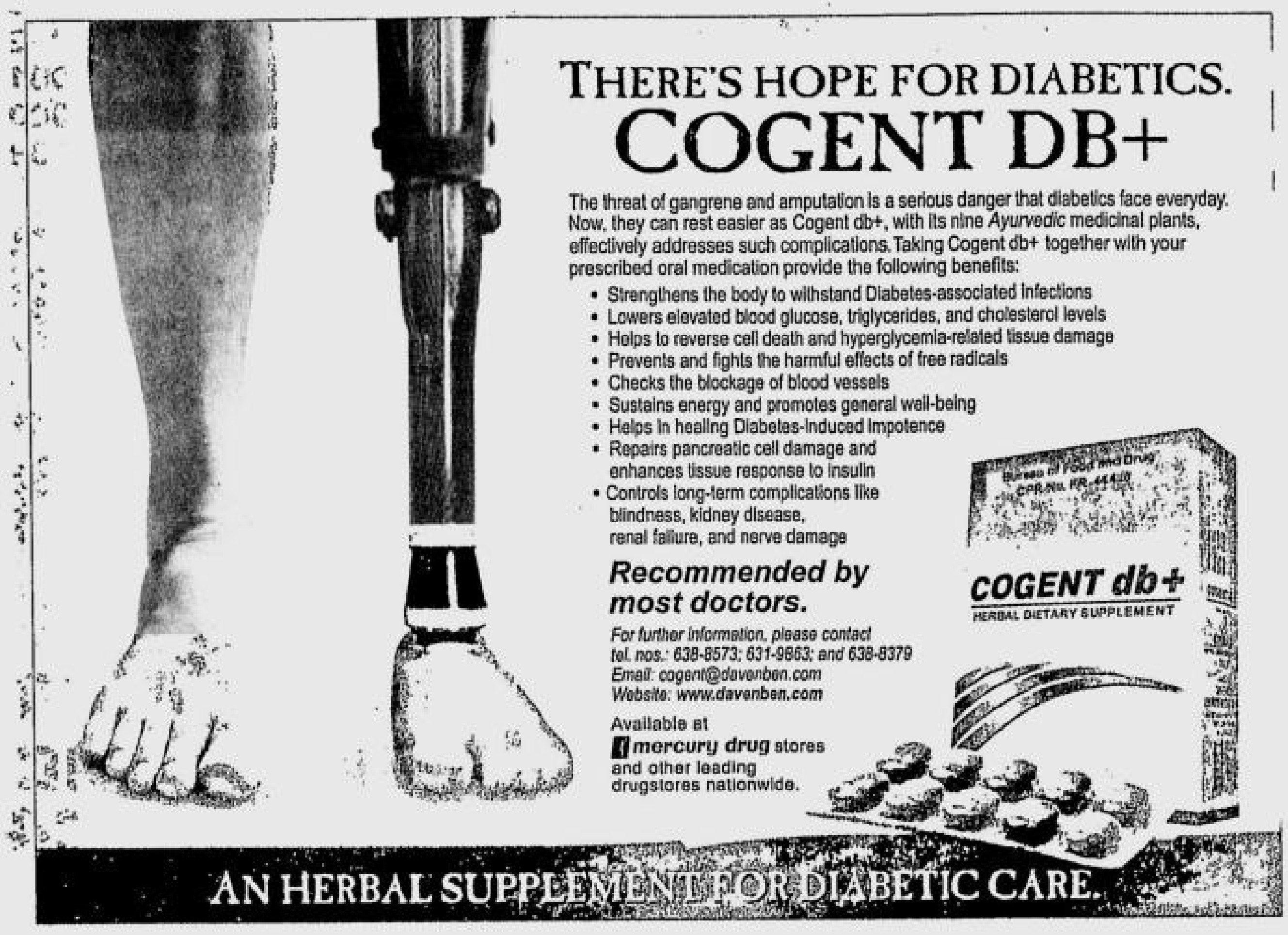
Aguro said he ordered the vessel turned around. That was when huge waves slapped it on its starboard side. It then tilted, started to take in water, and forced the crew to abandon ship. Two crewmen were reported missing.

Solar I largely intact

The expert testified that, according to the ROV footage, the Solar I was largely intact.

He said that in theory, cables could be rolled underneath the vessel to lift it. However, he said the operation would be too expensive and risky considering the depth. It also could cause more oil to leak. There was also the problem of finding a vessel with 750 meters of cable to lift the sunken tanker.

The other option discussed at the inquiry was siphoning off the remaining crude oil from the tanks, either through the vents or by punching a hole in the tank and sucking out oil that was buoyant.



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Marine rehab, recovery may take 10-25 yrs, say UP experts

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

GUIMARAS ISLAND—EVEN AS RESIDENTS of this island grapple with the loss of their livelihood and suffer from illnesses due to exposure to the black sludge along their shores, they may feel the oil spill's impact on the environment and rich marine life for a long time.

Scientists at the University of the Philippines Visayas (UPV) said the rehabilitation and recovery of marine life contaminated by the oil slick could take 10 to 20 years.

"Ten years is too short for recovery and it will not be to the pre-oil spill status," said Dr. Resurreccion Sadaba, head of the UPV task force that is assessing the extent of the damage to the environment and community.

The research team is composed mostly of scientists who conducted a similar study on Semirara Island in Antique after a power barge of the National Power Corp. ran aground off the island in December last year, spilling more than 300,000 liters of oil.

The UPV is also part of the group formed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to conduct a safety assessment of the air, soil and water in the oil-spill affected areas of Guimaras.

Sadaba, an expert on mangroves, said the island's mangroves bore the brunt of the oil spill.

Bunker fuel oil has coated most of the trees because the oil slick hit the shoreline during high tide.

Sadaba said this would cause greater stress to mangroves because the bunker fuel oil blocks their lenticels or breathing pores. The trees could suffocate and eventually die.

Gov. JC Rahman Nava said the oil slick had contaminated or destroyed some 220 km of coastline, 454 hectares of mangroves and 58 ha of seaweed plantations.

Up to 90 percent of the 46-ha mangrove forest on Taklong Island alone is coated with oil sludge, according to Sadaba.

National marine reserve

The island is part of Nueva Valencia town, the hardest hit of the five municipalities of Guimaras. It is home to the UPV marine biological station and the 1,143-ha Taklong Island National Marine Reserve (Tinmar).

The marine reserve hosts 22 of the 35 existing species of mangroves in the Philippines, including the hybrid *Rhizophova lamarckii* (Bakhaw hybrid). Many of the mangroves in the area are 50 to 75 years old.

Sadaba said the UPV task force could not say if the mangroves would survive because no study has been conducted on how the specific species of mangroves would react to oil spills.

"The (bunker fuel) has not settled to the bottom of the sea and it's too early to conclude on the comprehensive impact of the oil spill on marine life," he said.

Hardest hit

The task force is focusing on Tinmar because it is one of the worst-hit areas and is host to a variety of species, according to UPV Chancellor Glenn Aguilar. "It's definitely (a) huge job," he said.

Aguilar said the biophysical assessment would be completed within the week and the assessment of the socioeconomic impact would start by next week.

The damage to Tinmar and other areas in Guimaras will affect other areas in the region, said Nestor Yunque, station head of the UPV marine biological station.

The marine reserve serves as a fish nursery and is home to 30 fish species.

While the oil spill will not result in a massive fishkill because fish instinctively avoid oil spill areas, it will take time for the various fish species to return to the area.

But other forms of marine life that are not mobile will die from the oil spill.

There have been reports of dying or dead coral snakes, marine turtles, mollusks and shellfish.

The spill has also affected sea cucumbers, sea urchins and sea grass.

Interdependence

Sadaba said the oil spill would disturb or cut off the interdependence of marine life.

The experts are also concerned over the impact of the oil slick on plankton, because like the oil slick, plankton float and are carried by the current. Plankton, which are very small plants and animals, form the base of the marine food pyramid.

Sadaba said the long-term use of huge volumes of chemical dispersants could also affect the ecosystem, adding that there is no study on the impact of dispersants on the environment, especially on mangroves.

But he said the most important concern now was the removal of the sunken vessel, which is believed to still contain the bulk of its cargo of 2 million liters of bunker fuel oil.

The location of the sunken tanker was confirmed last week by a remote-operated vehicle of a Japanese survey ship, but the Philippine Coast Guard said the operation to remove the tanker or siphon its contents would take weeks.

Sadaba said this would make all plans tentative.

"As long as the threat is still there, we can't really plan for recovery. It will be palliative," he said.

'Honesty teams' to police cops

THE PHILIPPINE NAtional Police is ready to deploy "honesty teams" around the country to arrest policemen involved in extortion, bribery and other crimes.

PNP Director General Oscar Calderon said yesterday the deployment of the teams would encourage the public to help police authorities identify the few "rogues in uniform" who defy regulations.

"Despite the several organizational and internal reform measures instituted, there are still some personnel who undertake activities that undermine the organization's good accomplishments and the credibility it has gained through the years," Calderon said.

Earlier, Calderon said he would show "no mercy" to police personnel involved in irregularities.

He said he had ordered officers in every regional office to set up a team to monitor the activities of policemen assigned to highly visible posts, such as traffic enforcement and patrol operations, and in regulatory offices which issue clearances and licenses.

Calderon gave specific instructions to the honesty teams to insure that "viajeros," or merchants transporting goods to market, are protected against "kotong," or extortion by policemen, which makes the products costlier.

Accordingly, he said, the teams were specifically enjoined to target crooked traffic enforcers who prey on motorists and those who demand protection money from transport operators in exchange for leniency.

Calderon also announced his office would act on public complaints sent through its mobile phone hotline, Txt PNP 2920, and phoned-in and walk-in complaints received by the Complaints Referral and Action Center in Camp Crame.

Chief Supt. Ireneo Manaois was designated head of the complaints desk.

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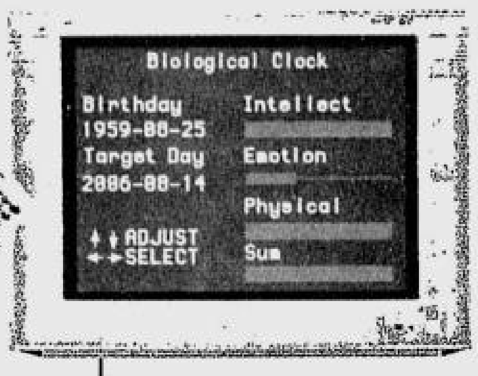

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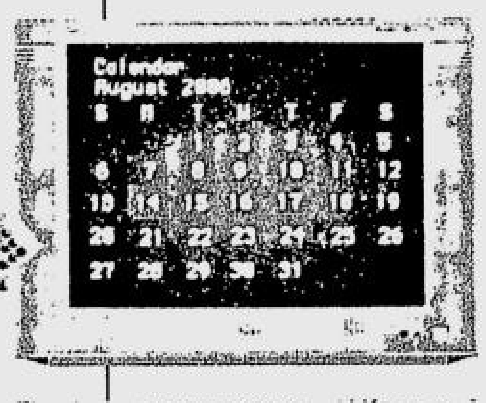

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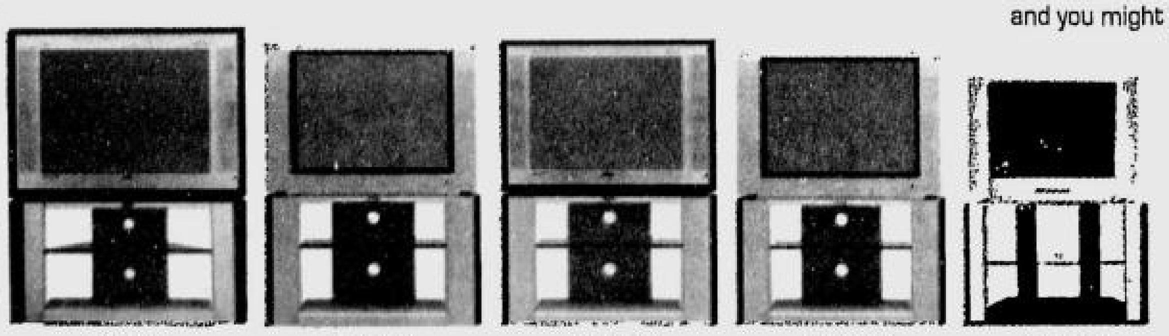

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9/11 kin illegally in US uneasy over riches

From page A1

But none of these three people, who are still living in or near New York City, feel they can publicly identify themselves.

"I can't dream very high, because I have no papers," said one widow from Ecuador who, like the others, agreed to be interviewed on the condition that she not be named.

"You're always afraid of exposure. It's a horrible feeling. But I don't want to go back to my country. I know my husband's spirit is here," she added.

After the US Congress created the victims' fund, promising payouts in return for an agreement not to sue the airlines or other interests, the officials who drafted the fund's rules explicitly stated that foreigners and illegal immigrants would be eligible.

And immigration authorities announced that they would not use information provided to the fund to track people down.

But the families who received money could still face deportation if their identities come to light in some other way, according to their lawyers.

In the end, the fund distributed 11 awards to the survivors of illegal immigrants. All those victims had worked at the restaurant Windows on the World.

Although the victims had earned modest wages, many were upwardly mobile and supported relatives back home, factors that increased the payouts. Their awards ranged from $875,000 to $4.1 million.

The 11 families could return to their native lands with their money, but feel tethered here, unwilling to leave the country where their spouses worked and died, and determined to give their children a chance to grow up here.

"I have half my life here," one widow said. "And my husband is here." *New York Times News Service*

INQUIRER PHOTO

A PLANE crashes into one of the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City in this photo taken on Sept. 11, 2001.

No greener pasture for topnotcher

From page A1

nurses are licensed doctors in the Philippines. They are now deployed at various health facilities in New York.

Jacinto and his colleagues complained that they did not get the promised salary of between $21 and $35 an hour.

They also failed to get other benefits, which were specified in their employment contract, like relocation and housing allowance, free malpractice insurance, free airfare from Manila to New York, pay differential for night shift duty, and flexible work schedule from eight to 12 hours.

Living in abandoned houses

Aside from being underpaid, the nurses complained of being overworked. Each of them is required to attend to 35 patients round the clock, instead of the ideal ratio of six patients per nurse.

Short of cash in the Big Apple, Jacinto and his colleagues now live "in leaking abandoned house(s)," located possibly in dark alleys of the city, which they had to furnish by "scrounging around for utensils, chairs and other things thrown away" by other people.

This was how lawyers Felix Vinluan in New York and Tim Calumpong in Manila painted the lives of Jacinto and the other nurses who banded together and, "in desperation," sought legal help to renounce their contract with Sentosa and its US-based partner, Sentosa Bent Philipson.

Vinluan flew to Manila and met with Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. on Aug. 27 to seek help in prosecuting the local recruitment agency.

Cabinet official intervenes

As a result of the complaint, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) suspended the license of the local Sentosa firm in May, but the penalty was lifted less than a month later after a "powerful Cabinet official" intervened on its behalf.

Pimentel is set to deliver a privilege speech today at the Senate not only to dramatize the plight of the nurses, but also to denounce and name the Cabinet official.

Unknown to the nurses, Pimentel said, the Cabinet official, whom he described as an "all-around factotum" of President Macapagal-Arroyo, pulled strings to put "none-too-subtle pressure" on the POEA and the Philippine Consulate in New York to force the nurses to back off from the case.

"I cannot understand how in the world a department secretary could have the gall to act in a manner that in effect obstructs the interest of justice and causes prejudice to the interest of the people he is sworn to serve," the senator told the INQUIRER.

"That is something that we probably will never know under this government whose penchant for the suppression of information knows no bounds and whose desire to confuse the people equals the despotically deceptive record of the martial law regime," he said.

4 from Mindanao

Pimentel showed particular interest in the case because four of the nurses hailed from Mindanao. In addition, the senator, who is from Mindanao, was the guest of honor at the oath-taking of Jacinto and other new doctors in March 2004.

Jacinto was a consistent scholar and honor student. He scored 86.75 percent in the medical boards, topping the field of 1,825 examinees, only 948 of whom had passed.

"While it pains me to do so," Jacinto would later tell the INQUIRER, "I'm looking forward to going abroad and not let the opportunity pass. If only the [job] market for medicine graduates was good here."

In his speech at the oath-taking rites, Pimentel told Jacinto and the other new doctors that he couldn't begrudge them their plans of going abroad. Still, he appealed to them to stay and share their knowledge with their poor countrymen, especially those in the countryside.

Sorrow-filled story

Pimentel said he felt more pain today than when he first got to know Jacinto during the oath-taking.

"This is a sorrow-filled story of some of the best and the brightest of our medical professionals who were lured by the promise of a better life out of the country. They have found out for themselves that the honeyed words they had relied upon were laced with large doses of bitter circumstances when they disembarked on the shores of the promised land," he said.

Aside from Jacinto, the other alleged victims of the recruitment agency were Juliet M. Anilao of Zambales; Harriet Avila of Tacloban City; Dulce Corazon Bayot of Tagaytay City; Archiel B. Buagas of Ginatilan, Cebu;

Annabelle R. Capulong, Marites Chan, Maritoni S. de la Rosa and Alipio Esguerra, all of Manila; Maricelle M. Dealo of Pasay City; Fe L. Cinco of Medina, Misamis Oriental; Mark M. del Cruz of Zamboanga City;

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Ma. Theresa G. Ramos of San Rafael, Bulacan; Ritchel P. Salve of Bantayan, Cebu, and Ranier C. Sichon of Kawit, Cavite.

More distressing

Pimentel said he took pains to put on record the victims' places of origin "so that those of us who come from the same places may better empathize with their problem because we might know them personally or their parents and relatives.

"While I understand the reason for [going abroad], I think it is even more distressing to witness the sad spectacle of some people taking up medicine as a pre-course before they become nurses, just so they can reach the promised land where they think the grass is greener than our locally grown ones," he said.

"My regret is that they had to leave the country at all at a time when our people need them the most. Unfortunately, the nurses we speak of have found to their discomfiture that the grass there is even browner, more parched and drier than ours," he said.

Why it's summertime again this September

From page A1

spheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said the summer-like heat would linger for at least another three to five days as the southwest monsoon winds had eased off and no tropical storm was in the horizon to trigger a cold spray.

"It will continue to be hot; it's going to feel as if it's summer again," Pagasa weather branch chief Nathaniel Cruz said in a phone interview yesterday.

Pagasa's five-day weather forecast from Sept. 3-7 showed Metro Manila could get as hot as 33 degrees Celsius, while Cagayan Valley up north could be scorching at 35 degrees.

Rain next week

Besides Baguio City, where temperatures will range from 14-24 degrees Celsius, the coolest it could get for the rest of Luzon would be 21 degrees, Pagasa data showed.

"We're still supposed to be at the peak of the typhoon season, so it should be raining again in a week," Cruz said.

"If in the next two weeks, there are still no tropical storms, it could be a precursor to something abnormal. Our forecasters are watching out," he said.

Pagasa said the monsoon break—a period in the season when there are no rains or weather disturbances associated with enhanced monsoon winds—signaled the gradual transition to the northeastern monsoon season, which he said was "more significant and more dangerous" for the public.

Tropical storms

"There is a bigger chance for tropical storms during the months of September and October to hit the central and northern parts of the country, so this would affect the highly populated areas," Cruz said.

Only two tropical storms are expected this month and some thunderstorms when the easterly winds affect the Philippines in October. The northeasterly winds would be active by November.

Up to 20 tropical storms and typhoons enter the Philippine area of responsibility every year, the highest occurrence of severe weather disturbances in this part of the world.

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"I want to do more than just text and call."
PHILIPPINE
NOKIA

Line forms early for thousands of 'starstruck' kids

By Nini Valera
Entertainment

LIKE MOST MOTHERS, Janice de Jesus believes her child is a star.

As early as 2:30 a.m. yesterday, De Jesus and her daughter Vanessa Jessi lined up on Jamboree Street in Quezon City where the GMA 7 television network is located, to obtain an application form for "Starstruck The Next Level," the station's homegrown reality-based star search.

Speaking in Filipino, De Jesus told the INQUIRER her daughter had wanted to join the contest when it was launched in 2003.

"At that time, Jesi was only in high school and I felt she wasn't ready for it yet," she said.

Three years later, mother and Jesi, now 18, were among the early birds in the crowd of wannabe stars who trooped to GMA 7 .

De Jesus said of her daughter: "I've seen her develop and mature as a performer. Definitely, she has a chance. Yes, she can be a star."

Jesi said it had always been her dream to become a performer.

"I don't feel that I'm a whole person if I don't perform," she said. "Performing is my life. Now I'm into cheerleading in school (Perpetual College). I got a scholarship through cheerleading."

Main event

The distribution of application forms for the "artista" search was the main event in GMA 7's noontime "SOP" and "SOP Gigsters," which were aired live from four locations—the GMA 7 studios, SM City Cebu, SM City Davao and SM City Iloilo.

By noon, the number of "Starstruck" hopefuls lining up for application forms on Jamboree Street had swollen to about 2,000.

"I even slept here," said Aaron Cuneta, 20, in Filipino.

A high school dropout, Cuneta said he wanted to join the search to show off his talents.

"I am proud of my acting, singing and dancing," he said. "When I was in school and the teachers held auditions for stage plays, I would always be chosen for the lead role."

Sheena Udani, 18, quit college at the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod for lack of money. She had been in the queue since 3 a.m.

"I want to try my luck, but it's OK if I'm not taken. I'll just try again," she said in "colegiala" English and struck a pose for the INQUIRER.

More expected

At the end of "SOP Gigsters" at 2:30 p.m. yesterday, about 2,000 people were lined up for application forms in SM City Iloilo. The same number trooped to SM City Davao and about 6,000 formed queues at SM City Cebu, according to "SOP" executive producer Rellie Manalo.

"We expected more people would audition this year since we expanded the age range of the contestants from 15-17 to 16-21," said Janine Nacar, "Starstruck" production manager.

From the thousands of applicants, 100 would be chosen for a series of auditions to be held nationwide. The list would be trimmed to 40 from which 10 finalists would be chosen to compete against each other for four top spots—a love team, a hunk or matinee idol, and a television sweetheart.

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No coup attempt, only a drill, says military

By Alcuin Papa

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE Philippines yesterday said it was not "jittery" when it conducted camp defense drills after rumors of a new coup attempt circulated on Friday.

Capt. Ramon Zagala, AFP public information office deputy chief, clarified that last Saturday's drill at the military's headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo was part of "procedure."

"All military camps in the country have camp defense drills. This is part of procedures of the military organization. As a matter of practice, these are announced. But sometimes they are unannounced so we can find out how our soldiers react in times of emergency. But it's normal. To a civilian, this might not be a normal thing," Zagala said.

He said the drills were meant to sharpen the military's response to threats to Camp Aguinaldo.

"Any group can take advantage of any situation. The military leadership is based here (in Camp Aguinaldo). So we need to be ready. Again, it's normal. Every camp in the country, even far-flung detachments, has these camp defense drills," Zagala said.

"We have to be prepared for any threat. We should not worry. There is no coup," he added.

Zagala also denied there was any direct threat from terrorists. "As of the present, there is none. We have not received any report to that effect."

On Saturday, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. ordered the drill after rumors circulated on Friday that elite troops were again getting "restless."

Speculation of another coup could have been prompted by the assembly of over 100 Scout Rangers at the Special Operations Command headquarters at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija on Friday.

The troops boarded a C-130 military transport plane bound for Sulu where they were deployed to augment Marine and Army battalions battling the Abu Sayyaf group.

Camp commander Brig. Gen. Alfredo Cayton, who was assigned to head "Task Group Aguinaldo," directed the drill at Aguinaldo that began at 7 a.m.

All gates were closed as hundreds of soldiers stationed at Aguinaldo rushed to the grandstand where a command post had been set up.

Within 17 minutes, hundreds of soldiers, fire trucks, ambulances and two V-150 armored personnel carriers were assembled on the parade ground.

But Cayton was disappointed with the slow response time since the troops had been told about the drill the day before.

He said the next drill would be conducted on a weekday and would involve non-military personnel.

Rev. Salik Sinkiat; 76

REV. SALIK C. SINKIAT, former director of Lorma College in San Fernando, La Union, died last Friday at the age of 76.

He is survived by his children Lemuel, Noel and Stenillie Grace, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

His remains lie at Marian Memorial Chapels along Marcos Highway in Antipolo City. Interment will be on Saturday at 2 p.m. at Heavens Gate 2 in Antipolo.

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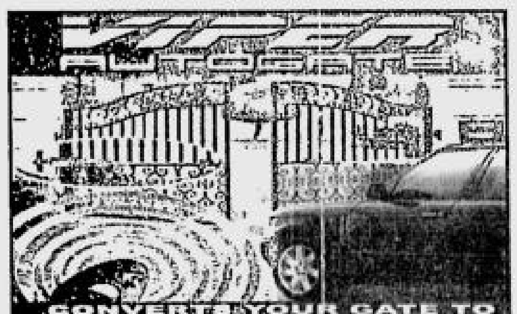

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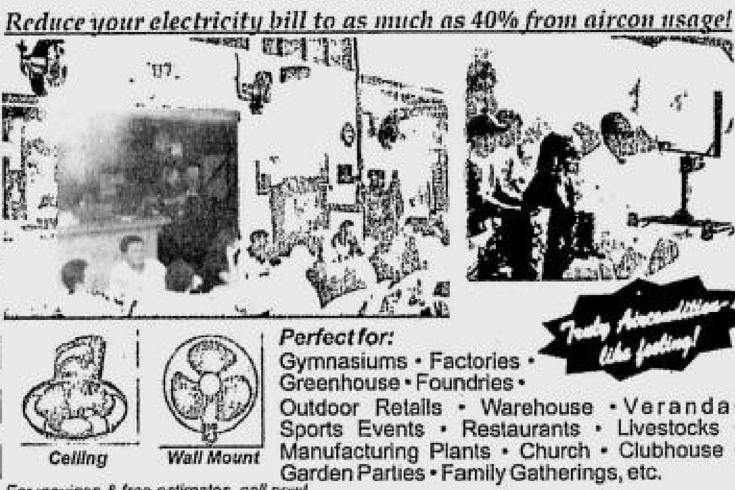

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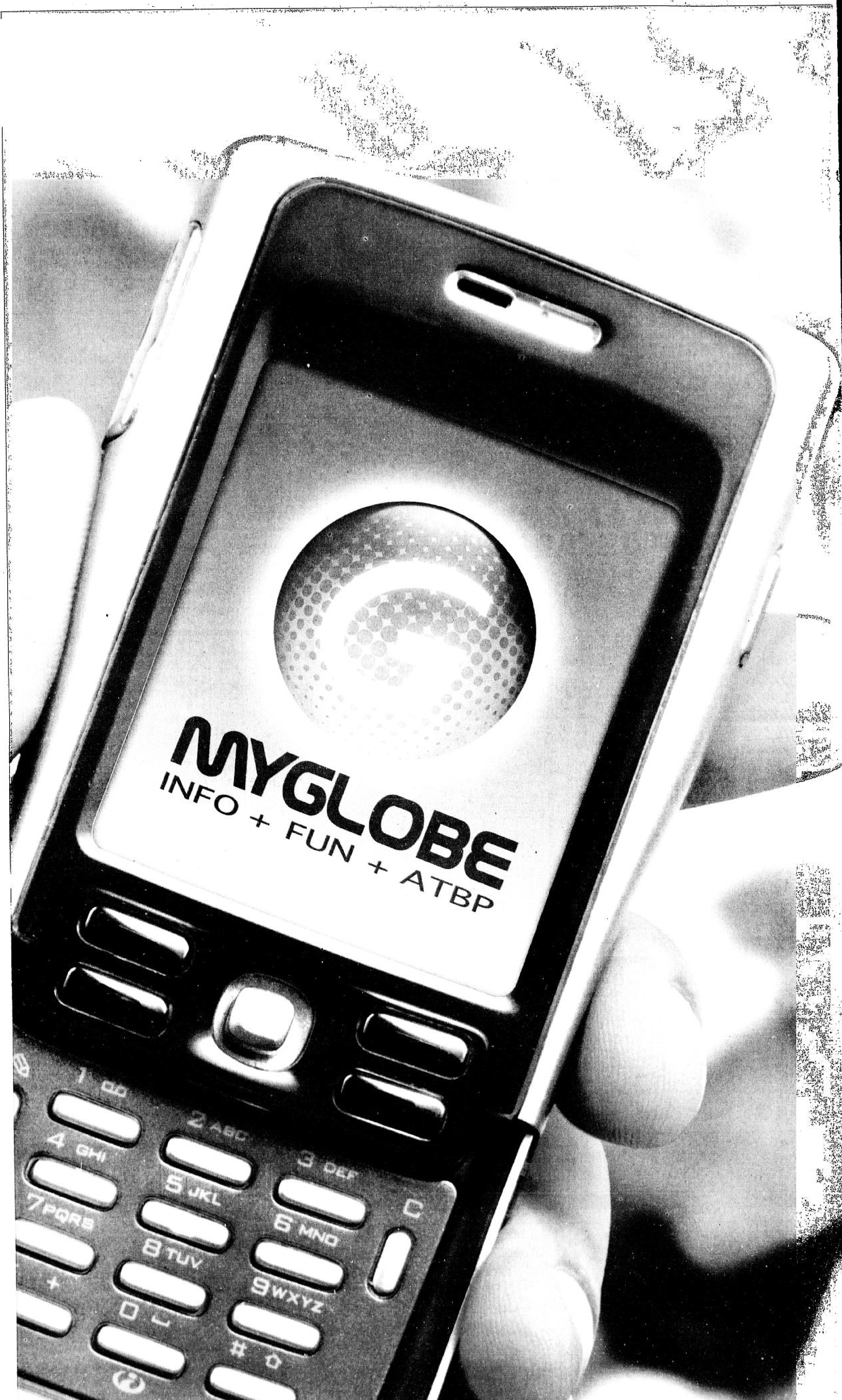
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•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
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Everyone's business

EDITORIAL

IT IS NO SECRET THAT SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S biggest corporations, plus a host of smaller ones, donate good money for education-related purposes. We do not simply mean the enviable practice of sending promising employees to institutions both here and abroad for short, intensive, advanced courses, on company expense; these are educational investments necessary for corporate growth, though they also often redound to the country's benefit.

We mean the practice of investing in education: Endowing professorial chairs to allow some of the country's most senior academics to earn additional income (at least at the same level as a junior manager in a multinational); donating textbooks and computers and other resources to cash-strapped schools; building and providing classrooms, as the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been doing for years; or even, as in the case of the Metrobank Foundation, honoring the country's best teachers year after year.

Former Finance Secretary Ramon del Rosario Jr. estimates that the business community spends as much as P1.2 billion a year on various education-related projects. (We think the total may be higher, if the classroom-building and similar initiatives of the Chinese business associations are also taken into account.) But it is possible that business, in fact, is not getting its money's worth.

Many of the companies which sponsor education projects do so independently of one another. No overall strategy binds the projects together. "Like our NGO counterparts, [we] achieve mixed results," Del Rosario said. "It is time for business to act in a better coordinated and more unified manner." In management-speak: "We must build synergies and push for genuine and sustainable reform hinged on performance and accountability across the education sector."

Think of the possibilities. Perhaps a comprehensive teacher-recognition program, building on the Metrobank success story, can encourage more outstanding students to try teaching, and more outstanding teachers to stay in academe. What if, by pooling its resources together, the business community can help send a hundred high-potential, high-performance teachers every year to study short, intensive, advanced courses in the best schools? What if other companies based in the regions can build on the success of existing recognition programs by hosting the program winners in a lecture series in their own areas—and thus help spread both the good news of teaching and the profession's best practices?

Think of the possibilities. Perhaps the business community and the Department of Education, in close partnership, can make a virtue out of necessity and design an overall plan for privately funded classroom-building projects. Since private enterprise will continue building classrooms anyway, perhaps it would be best to integrate all such efforts into, say, a medium-term plan. What if certain companies, which believe in investing in the communities they are located in, were to "adopt" entire areas, with final responsibility for meeting infrastructure requirements?

In the words of Del Rosario, who spoke on behalf of the newly formed Philippine Business for Education initiative: "Our corporations must begin adopting not just schools but communities. We must unleash the power of our resources for education on local levels by working hand in hand with principals and teachers, district heads, local governments, parent associations, school boards, barangay officials and local NGO partners in education." Think of the possibilities.

"Education is everyone's business," Del Rosario said at last week's PBEd forum. He got that right. The businessmen who formed PBEd were driven to work together because of the continuing decline in the quality of Philippine education. They offered a four-part plan, but it may be that the best thing they can do for the state of education is to relentlessly think long-term. That would mean putting pressure (much of it not unwelcome, we are certain) on the DepEd, to never again sacrifice long-term educational objectives for short-term goals. That would also mean investing primarily in the very young, those who are still in grade school. Businessmen know that in developing human resources, there's no such thing as a quick fix.

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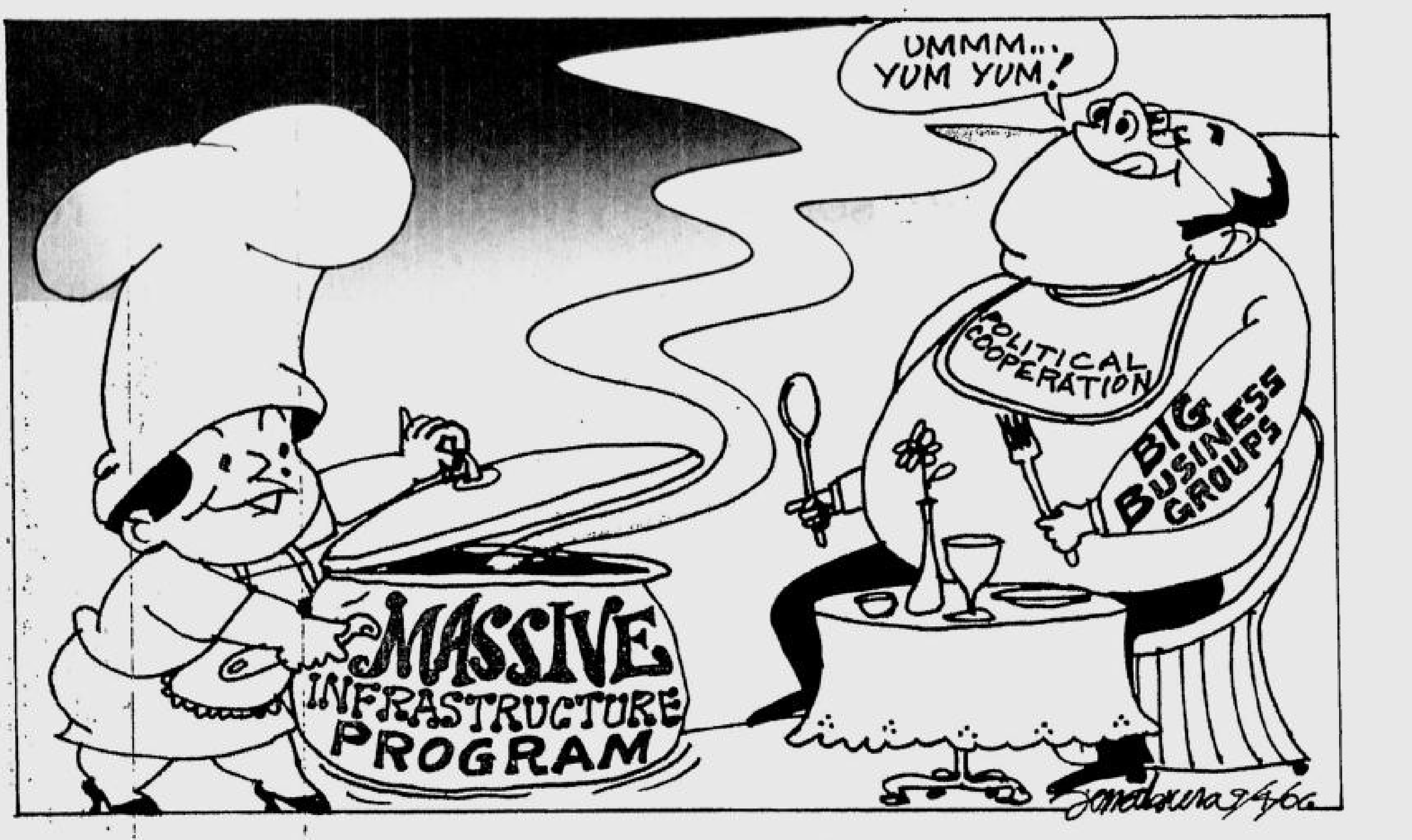

Gov't lawyers made a mistake in Piatco case

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

MALACAÑANG SAYS THE GOVERNMENT IS ready with the P3 billion it has been required to pay Piatco for the Naia Terminal 3, but that a temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by the Court of Appeals is blocking the payment.

Wait a minute, not so fast, says former SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) chair Perfecto Yasay. The correct amount, he says, is not P3 billion, or US$565 million, which is what Piatco is asking for, but only $175 million, the actual cost of the building. It would take another $150 million to operate the terminal.

$565 million is a long way from $175 million. The government would be wasting taxpayers' money if it paid the bigger amount, Yasay says. How did the price escalate that much?

Because the government is buying its own property, Yasay explains. The Supreme Court has ordered the government to pay Piatco "just compensation" for the terminal. The question is how much is this "just compensation"?

Yasay believes the government should pay only for the uncompleted terminal building, which cost $175 million to build. But Piatco is charging $565 million, which includes payment for the land. But the land already belongs to the government. It used to be part of the Villamor Air Base. Why should the government pay for something it already owns?

Because government lawyers made a mistake when they filed a case for expropriation. They should have sued for a simple ejectment case against Piatco, Yasay says. By initiating the illogical expropriation case, the Arroyo administration virtually recognized Piatco's "ownership" of Terminal 3, Yasay explains.

Furthermore, the expropriation of Terminal 3 destroys the Philippine government's defense in the $425-million claim of Fraport in Washington, D.C. and the $565-million claim of Piatco before the arbitration tribunal in Singapore. Also, it disregards the $10-million claim of Takenaka as the general contractor of the BOT project.

"The expropriation will contravene the 2003 decision of the Supreme Court in the case of Agan vs Piatco, declaring that Piatco is not entitled to the award of Terminal 3 because the BOT (build-operate-transfer) agreements signed with government violated the Constitution, the law and public policy," Yasay says.

"In the same 2003 decision," he continues, "the Supreme Court stressed that to allow Piatco to profit from Terminal 3 instead of imposing upon it the stiffest sanctions allowed by law is unconscionable."

The indisputable owner of Terminal 3 is the government, Yasay says, "and Piatco is the builder entitled only to investment reimbursement of actual cost estimated at $175 million."

Since Piatco is a builder in bad faith, the reasonable reimbursement it is entitled to could even be much lower than the estimated $175 million, he added.

In RP vs Gingoyon, the Supreme Court pointed out that if the government had not recognize Piatco's ownership, "there would have been no impediment to seizing control through ordinary ejectment proceedings."

So why is the Arroyo administration willing to pay $565 million for something that cost only $175 million or less?

Because, Yasay explains, to contest that $565-million demand of Piatco would mean opening the firm's books—to determine what would be just compensation. And that would expose a can of worms—the graft and corruption that accompanied the construction of Terminal 3 and the public officials who received kickbacks. The administration's actions on the Piatco case therefore appears to be a cover-up to hide the involvement of government officials in the mess, he says.

Yasay believes that the operation of Terminal 3 will eventually be given back to Piatco under a new agreement, and that the present court case is just a "*moro-moro*."

"No right-thinking investor would pay $565 million for a structure that only cost $175 million to build and another $150 million to make operational," he says.

"Since the government does not have the money to pay the amount to Piatco and Congress has not appropriated any amount for the construction and acquisition of the BOT project, the government will tell Piatco: Go ahead and operate Terminal 3 and recover your investments plus reasonable profit. After some time, the terminal will be transferred to the government. By that time, the terminal shall have been already run down," Yasay says.

There's more bad news: The P3 billion payment ordered by Judge Jesus B. Mupas of the Pasay City regional trial court is only the initial amount. The final amount can run to billions more of taxpayers' money. Not bad for Piatco but very bad for the Filipino taxpayers.

Yasay poses some questions about the judge's decision:

1. Why did the judge allow the expropriation of a property already owned by the government, without inquiring into the lawfulness of the expropriation?

2. Why did he allow the payment of billions of pesos to the owners of Piatco, who are themselves being prosecuted for waste and corruption precisely because of the Terminal 3 mess?

3. Why did he "reward" Piatco when, according to the Supreme Court, "allowing it to profit from Terminal 3 instead of imposing the stiffest sanctions permissible under the law is unconscionable"?

4. Why did he recognize a company that chose to pursue a claim for refund of its investment and projected earnings in Terminal 3 in the staggering amount of $565 million before a foreign tribunal, but refuses to submit to the jurisdiction of the Philippine expropriation court?

Is the Arroyo administration giving Piatco the rope by which to hang the Filipino people? Yasay is asking.

Command responsibility

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

IN 1996, A COUPLE OF YEARS AFTER JUDGE Manuel Real of Honolulu found Marcos guilty of the torture and killing of thousands of prisoners during martial law, the Marcoses appealed the case in Pasadena, California. Their lawyer challenged Real's basis for finding Marcos guilty on the ground that Real had given the jury questionable instructions. Specifically, Real had instructed the jury that they could find Marcos guilty if: "(1) Marcos directed, ordered, conspired with, or aided the military in torture, summary execution and 'disappearance' or (2) if Marcos knew of such conduct by the military and failed to use his power to prevent it."

Marcos' lawyer argued that American law does not support the second condition, and that "no international law decision ... has ever imposed liability upon a foreign official on those grounds."

The Pasadena court denied the appeal, saying those two conditions of "command responsibility" are in fact well borne out both by US and international law. It cited the US Supreme Court ruling on Yamashita, thus:

"[T]he ... charge is (the failure of the) petitioner as an army commander to control the operations of the members of his command by 'permitting them to commit extensive and widespread atrocities' ... [T]he law of war presupposes that its violation is to be avoided through the control of the operations of war by commanders who are to some extent responsible for their subordinates ... [P]rovisions [of international law] plainly imposed on petitioner who, at the time specified, was military governor of the Philippines, as well as commander of the Japanese forces, an affirmative duty to take such measures as were within his power and appropriate in the circumstances to protect prisoners of war and the civilian population."

If the Melo Commission is serious about its work, all it has to do is go by this luminous precedent. Forget summoning GMA's minions, summon GMA herself to answer for the "extensive and widespread atrocities" being wreaked by her troops.

Congress, of course, was quick to exonerate her from blame in this respect. That was one of the issues brought against her by those seeking her impeachment. Well, we have a saying in this country, which is: The hardest person to wake up is the one who is pretending to be asleep. Might as well try reviving someone who has passed out in drunken stupor, you'll have better chances.

The pro-GMA majority argued to a man or woman that there was nothing to connect GMA to the killings. Of course, you won't find any written or verbal order given by her directly to Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan to torture and summarily execute suspected NPA rebels—after the "Hello Garci" tapes she would have become more wary of expressing her incontinent desires carelessly. But then you won't find the same thing either from Marcos. He never explicitly ordered his generals verbally or in writing to torture, summarily execute, or erase from the face of the earth any trace of suspected rebels. That is something you might expect Erap to do, had he been inclined to rule forever by force—and thank God he was not. But that is not something you might expect from Marcos or GMA.

Thank God, however, as Judge Real's ruling reminds us—a ruling GMA herself has gone by, as seen by her earnest efforts to extract from the Marcos estate the sums demanded by Real for the indemnification of the torture victims—there is another criterion for liability or culpability in atrocity. That is the full knowledge that the atrocity is happening and, while having the power to do so, the failure or unwillingness to stop it.

Does GMA know the atrocity is happening?

Are you kidding me? At the very least, the killings—of activists and journalists—began long before she unleashed her "war against the NPA." The corpses were piling up, which had begun to alarm both the international journalistic and human rights community. The "war," an epically cynical one launched against an enemy that posed little threat physically; indeed, that had been GMA's own allies in her quest for the presidency—she ardently conspired with them to oust Erap, a fact that by Palparan's current definition of the "enemy" should easily land her in that category—is merely meant to give the killings a quasi-legal mantle.

At the very most, as that last part suggests, Palparan has never hidden his homicidal bent. He has boasted about it, defying his critics, who are almost by definition people who still believe in democracy. He has openly advocated death to the enemy. He has said publicly that if you get shot in the company of a suspected NPA rebel, that's your fault. He has said airily that he does not see any difference between party-list and communist, they are all the same. That is a recipe for a bloodbath. No, that is an engraved invitation to genocide.

Has GMA tried to stop this?

Are you kidding me even more? She has not told Palparan that in a democracy, people are presumed innocent until proven guilty, she has told Palparan to keep up the good work. She has not told Palparan that in a democracy there is a distinction between combatant and non-combatant, soldier and civilian, people who believe in Marx and people who take up arms to build a communist state; she has told Palparan, he (like she) is one piece of work. She has not told Palparan that in a democracy the principle is not to kill first and apologize later or not at all (how can she?), she has held him up for emulation before the nation.

What the Melo Commission needs is not wit, it is will. The proof is in plain sight. The question is not whether or not that commission has the wile or guile to find it. The question is whether or not that commission has the eyes, or balls, to see it.

The saga of RA 6735

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

REPUBLIC ACT 6735, OF COURSE, IS THE MUCH debated law on constitutional amendment by initiative and referendum. It was examined three times by the Supreme Court in 1997; three times it was rejected. Now, nine years later, it is on the verge of being examined again. If the fates would allow it, there could be another one 10 years from now! Then people will ask, "Whatever happened to the principle of *stare decisis*?"

I myself, however, am of the view that the validity of the controversial provisions of RA 6735 should have been upheld in 1997. In addition, the original decision had also concluded by saying that "Congress should not tarry any longer in complying with the constitutional mandate to provide for the implementation of the right of the people under that system." But Congress has tarried until now; hence the mess we are in.

Of the justices who deliberated on RA 6735 in 1997, only Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban and Justice Reynato Puno are still in the Court, both of them staunch defenders of the sufficiency of RA 6735. I doubt that they will change their mind. But there are 13 other justices in the Court and we do not know what they think.

Interestingly, however, even Chief Justice Panganiban has some questions which should not unduly raise the hopes of those who expect a parliamentary government by June next year. In his dissenting opinion in the Sept. 23, 1997 case of Pirma vs Comelec, Panganiban prefaced his questions by saying: "[M]y position upholding the adequacy of RA 6735 and the validity of Comelec Resolution 2300 will not *ipso facto* validate the Pirma petition and automatically lead to a plebiscite to amend the Constitution. Far from it." Panganiban next followed with the questions which he said proponents "must still satisfactorily hurdle."

Three of the questions he raised are still relevant to the current controversy. They are:

"1. Does the proposed change [in 1997 it was the lifting of term limits, now a shift to parliamentary government] constitute a mere amendment and not a revision of the Constitution? ....

"3. Does the clamor for the proposed change in the Constitution really emanate from the people who signed the petition for initiative? Or is it the beneficiaries of [the proposed change] who are in fact orchestrating such movement to advance their own political interests?

"4. Are the six million signatures genuine and verifiable? Do they really belong to qualified warm bodies comprising 12% of the registered voters nationwide, of which every legislative district is represented by at least 3% of the registered voters therein?"

Commenting on Question No. 3, Panganiban adds: "The right to amend through initiative belongs to the people—not to the government and its minions."

Commenting on Question No. 4, Justice Panganiban further observed: "This to my mind is the crucible, the litmus test, of a people's petition for initiative .... If, as claimed by many, these six million signatures are fraudulent, then let them be exposed and damned for all history in a signature verification process conducted under our open system of legal advocacy."

When the Sigaw petition goes to the Supreme Court, what issues will be raised? At least four issues will have to be examined. First, should the Court reexamine the 1997 decision? Second, if it does, should it reverse the 1997 decision? Third, are the changes being proposed allowable for initiative and referendum under the present Constitution? Fourth, should the Court say something about the 12 percent and 3 percent requirement, and if so, what should it say?

On the first question, the Court will have to decide whether the law involved is already dead and beyond the resuscitating power of the Court, and has already passed on to the domain of Congress.

If the Court takes up the second question, it will have to determine the extent of the power of the Court to review a decision of Congress when Congress has acted in obedience to a constitutional provision mandating it to implement a constitutional command. The 1997 Court was very strict on Congress. The current Court has been very liberal in at least two other instances—the party-list case and the right of holders of dual citizenship to vote even without the usual required residence.

On the third question, will the Court give a definitive distinction between "amendment" and "revision" and apply it to what is being proposed?

Finally, what will the Court say about the statement of the Comelec that Sigaw's campaign seems to have satisfied the 12 percent and 3 percent requirement for initiative and referendum? Chief Justice Panganiban, in his dissenting opinion in the Pirma case raised very interesting questions which also need to be answered today.

Let us listen once again to Justice Panganiban in Pirma vs Comelec:

"Santiago, where the single issue of sufficiency of RA 6735 was resolved, took this court three (3) months, and another two (2) months to decide the motion for reconsideration."

As to the verification of signatures, Panganiban observed: "Comelec's herculean task alone of verifying each of the six million signatures is enormously time-consuming, considering that any person may question the authenticity of each and every signature, initially before the election registrar, then before the Comelec on appeal and finally, before this Court in a separate proceeding. Moreover, the plebiscite itself—assuming such stage can be reached—may be scheduled only after sixty (60) but not more than ninety (90) days from the time the Comelec and this Court, finally declares the petition to be sufficient."

Will we have a parliamentary system by June? Can Wonder Woman shorten the time frame?

Battered but unbowed

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S PERCEIVED lack of sincerity and the question of legitimacy hounding her administration are probably among the reasons why many received with much skepticism her creation of the Melo Commission, which has been tasked to investigate the spate of extrajudicial executions that, since 2001, has left dead 740 human rights activists, leftist militants, journalists and lawyers, among other people. That she timed the commission's creation with the 23rd anniversary of Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino's assassination, to many, smacked of political gimmickry, more so because the condemnation—local and international—of these senseless killings is growing louder.

Even journalists have many reasons to be wary; beyond the McCarthyist rhetoric of some administration officials, we have yet to hear President Arroyo issue a strong and categorical order to put a stop to the killings—many, if not most, of which were allegedly perpetrated by government forces and shadowy groups under its control.

I am reprinting here an abridged version of the Congress Statement of the 5th Congress of the National Union of Journalists. The document largely reflects the challenges faced by those who continue to "expose and seek the truth":

"The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) wraps up its 5th Congress, held Aug. 27 to 28 in Tagaytay City, secure in the knowledge that the free and independent Philippine media's staunch defense of freedom of the press and of expression has expanded the front lines with more committed journalists rallying to the cause.

"But at the same time, this Congress also reflected the sober realities journalists face as the war against civil liberties in the country appears to have intensified and reached a more vicious stage. As our keynote speaker, the venerable Vergel O. Santos, reminded us in the wake of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales' ominous pronouncement about the supposed communist infiltration of the media, 'We may even be in bigger trouble than we think.'

"As he so aptly pointed out, the 50 or so journalists slain since Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo came to power 'are enough to staff one national daily and that, therefore, their murder means the silencing of one potential collective voice of public conscience, silenced for precisely doing what it is in its perfect nature to do so—speak.' "Not to mention the often odious working conditions and, even more odious economic benefits, so many of our colleagues—especially those in the frontlines, the provinces, where the calling to serve the people's right to know is most needed—have to bear with.

"And there among us, delegates to the NUJP's highest policymaking body, are living proof of the risks and dangers we face.

"The three are Tony Abejo of NUJP's Ozamiz chapter (publisher and editor of the Malindang Tribune, a community paper in Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental); Carolina Montilla of NUJP-Tacloban (publisher/editor of the Eastern Times, based in Leyte's capital city and serving Eastern Visayas); and Maureen Japzon, editor and feature writer of the community paper and, incidentally, voted by the Congress to the NUJP national directorate.

"On the eve of his travel to Tagaytay, Abejo received no less than eight text messages on his cellular phone, warning him to 'be cautious' and, eventually, suggesting that he divide what little wealth he had among his wife and children because he would 'rest in peace.'

"On the other hand, a Samar-based columnist for Montilla's paper received a letter bordered with black ribbon, sent by an 'Anti-Communist League,' telling him to 'regret what you have done.' Since then, the columnist has reported his being trailed by motorcycle-riding men, the dreaded common thread in the pattern of murders that has ravaged the ranks of both the Philippine press and legal dissenters.

"Two of her staff reporters in Tacloban, Roli and Maureen, have been receiving text threats regularly.

"That Tony, and Roli and Maureen, notwithstanding the personal worries that weighed heavy on them, showed up at the Congress and lent their time and experience to strengthening the NUJP, is a tribute to their courage and dedication and the truism that, indeed, real strength lies in unity.

"The unity of those who share the same dream of a free and independent Philippine press serving the people's right to know and their right to free expression, the unity of those who together wage battle against those who seek to stamp out the truth in pursuit of selfish interests.

"The International Federation of Journalists fittingly paid tribute to our threatened colleagues, the Filipino journalists who 'continue to strive for increased professionalism and a strong, independent and free media' and 'defend the public's right to know, despite regular and violent attacks from all sides.'

"They are, as Vergel Santos fittingly observed, 'freedom's last line of defense' in the face of 'one evidently desperate president'; a national security adviser 'out of an old dangerous mold of official enforcers—those programmed to feel more needed as their bosses feel more insecure'; their favorite general, 'who seems to relish being called executioner as an affirmation of efficiency—efficiency in a barbaric sense'; and a government gripped by 'official cold-bloodedness and twisted sense of retributive proportion.'

"Our threatened colleagues are the raison d'être of the NUJP. They are the NUJP. And they are the best proof that, at the end of this arduous path, the Philippine press and the Filipino people we serve will emerge unbowed, triumphant."

* * *

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Old Philippines

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

(Remarks before Rotary Club of Manila Bay)

IT SEEMS TO ME, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, that when a choir performs for professional gatherings, its performance invariably includes a song or two from "Les Misérables."

A musical Freudian slip? Are we living in "the best of times, the worst of times," as dangerous, ominous, yet exciting, as Charles Dickens' and Victor Hugo's accounts of the French Revolution? I believe so. The Philippines is dying. A new Philippines is being born.

Which is which?

I recently had a conversation with a Filipino in his 70s, who spoke fondly of prewar optimism—the country had, alone among the colonies of the West in our part of the world, secured, prior to World War II, a guarantee of political independence by a fixed date, and was the envy of our neighbors.

The Japanese Occupation swept all of prewar certainties, even arrogance, away; national solidarity, even identity, certainly the economy, were shattered. Our leadership was divided; our political cohesion fractured; our youth were decimated; and out of the cracks emerged the violence that has characterized our political life ever since.

Still, things were slowly, if not very neatly, put back together in the '50s, reaching a high point during the Magsaysay administration; but that era, along with Magsaysay's leadership, was short-lived. The younger generation of *guerilleros* who catapulted him to power, in a vote of protest against their elders, were left politically orphaned; and sooner than they could imagine, they, who were once the young and idealistic, found themselves challenged by their own children, who no longer looked to Jefferson but instead had turned to Mao.

The signs of those times were not, to my mind, the Diliman Commune, but a parallel effort overlooked because it's inconvenient. When the Diliman Commune, the revolt of students in the University of the Philippines in 1971, took place, some residents of the area banded together and hunted down the radical students. They were defending order and their property rights. There's a similar political vigilantism among the middle and upper classes today.

The virtue of democracy is that it permits the transition from one generation to the next, with as little bloodshed as possible, and hopefully where everyone feels they have a say in what happens. It's not a numbers game or merely following rules. It's protecting the minority so that when they inevitably become the majority, they aren't dying to strangle those who had led before. But when Marcos' pomaded generation decided it couldn't surrender power to long-haired hippies, it consigned the successor generation to limbo—and our country to an escalating cycle of violence, hate and fear.

Defective as the periodic transfers of power before martial law were, even that cycle was stopped. Anyone with an independent mind had three miserable choices: shut up, ship out, or shoot it out.

As an academic recently told me, with martial law, the country lost an entire generation of intellectuals. It lost an entire generation, period. Some went to the hills. Others sold out. Still more shipped out, returning only now, to retire.

It's no wonder that politically, most ideas seem to be frozen in time, somewhere in the 1960s, and these ideas are themselves being questioned by those who, to my generation, seem to be the hopelessly unhip hippie crowd. The hippies of yesterday have grey hair today; but what's worse is that the increasingly hairless but still dominant generation that the hippies questioned continues to rule today.

An economist also told me recently that when the economy collapsed in 1983, a significant transformation also took place. It was, he argued, the first time corruption became endemic in Philippine society. More so than during the Japanese Occupation, during which—as you can read in Agoncillo's account—the pretensions of the ruling class were punctured by their having to pawn their possessions and scramble for survival alongside the poor.

The poor have always been called criminal by the rich, even though all that the poor have been trying to do is survive; but when the middle class and the rich either abandon, or are stripped, of all pretenses to public and private decency, you have a truly dangerous situation. No one is left with any moral authority over anyone else; what once served to keep everything cozy and looking good proves as rotten and corrupt as those who were once considered moral, political and social inferiors. So who has any incentive to worship anything except power and wealth? Why should anyone help or believe anyone else?

With martial law, Marcos secured the support of the middle and upper crust, who only abandoned him when he proved too greedy and then, incompetent; Edsa I restored the pre-martial law leadership which—lean and hungry from its exclusion from the rigodon of power during Marcos' rule—grew fat, while the middle class that allied with it discovered there was nothing for the middle class; an entire generation of retired middle-class professionals were stripped of their dozens of hectares of honestly bought land, while those in the political class retained their thousand-hectare *haciendas*.

In Edsa II, in a last hurrah, the tired relics of Edsa I were joined by the martial law babies, thrilling at the chance to reenact People Power, only to discover within weeks it was only Nani power and Chavit power ....

And again, there was Edsa III which failed because it was not sincerely led, but which gave the downtrodden a taste of something they'd never savored in an urban setting before: they scared the daylights out of their social, political and economic bosses. The end result was 2004, a time when I am sure many of your friends told you what they told me: "Victory at whatever price, rather than let the opposition come back to power." *(To be continued)*

Outsourcing, anyone?

COMMENTARY

Emil B. Justimbaste

I HAD THIS IDEA OF JOB OUTSOURCING AS SOMETHING very special, glamorous and high-paying. I thought that working on some outsourced contract or job would mean fabulous amounts of money pouring into one's bank account. I think a lot of people have this notion, too.

You could probably blame us for believing so much in government hype: it has set up IT centers all over the major cities in the country, proclaiming that this industry is where the future lies. You no longer have to go abroad to earn your dollars, we are told. Just stay put, inside those cool cubicles, doing all those high-tech jobs, and you'll earn your keep as if you were abroad, too. In six figures, dude!

Whoever told us earning dollars through outsourcing is that easy?

I tried this. No, I did not work in call centers, answering calls from all over in my crisp English and modulated voice. My command of the language won't qualify me for that job and my voice is only good for singing those bawdy love songs when I'm about to sleep over gallons of the local red wine (read: tuba, *dong*).

If you're an Internet addict, you'll easily find "work-at-home" jobs advertised in many sites. Craigslist.com has plenty. Name any job on earth and the site probably has it. So I tried writing to job advertisers for "telecommute" jobs that fit my qualifications, starting with the easiest—data entry jobs. They come in several versions—and racketeers abound, preying on the innocent.

I wrote an application letter to three of them, and two responded directing me to a site where one is supposed to register. Of course, there's a long introduction about the boons of data entry, with a lot of so-called testimonials about how they made hundreds of dollars a day just filling up forms that they send you. The more data you are able to enter, the bigger the money you make. At the end of the introduction is the registration form which tells you to pay a one-time fee of $30 for a dozen reasons.

The other prospective employer who also replied via e-mail varied his/her pitch a little, but at the end, one is also required to shell in $9 for the registration fee and the cost of the form. Imagine the amount of money they will be making if thousands of stupid and innocent guys like me started to pay the required fees for a job which is as nebulous as the dirty clouds atop Mt. Amandiwing on Leyte island. So much for data entry.

I also tried writing jobs. You know, English writers abound, proliferating in the Internet, so that sometimes one can really get intimidated. Just read how they write. Fabulous and outstanding. Many of them are a lot better than our columnists in the national dailies. And you're competing against hordes of them. A Filipino college graduate with textbook knowledge of the English language won't survive the rat race here. One has to write like one is born to the language, and be able to lucidly express what is in his guts.

Anyway, I tried that, too. There are a lot of sites that advertise writing jobs but most of them require registration fees. In dollars, of course.

But there's this site that accepts bidders without registration fees—getafreelance.com. Here I got a few offers for web programming as well as for writing. I could have made some $240 for a few days' work just to fix their online store's scripting program, but I bungled that one. Having no experience in online store programming, I did not want to fiddle around with the code of my prospective employer.

The second offer was for writing an online booklet about Persian rugs. No, I'm not an expert in that. But my employer must have been so impressed with my writing samples that he decided to give me a try. As a test, he asked me to rewrite a few paragraphs for the booklet's introduction. Apparently the result was OK, so he asked me how he was going to send his payment. I gave him the account of my friend in San Jose, California. Paypal is not operating in the country, see?

However, that's not the end of the story. It turned out that the draft of the booklet that I was supposed to edit had very little substance and a lousy structure, and it was supposed to have been written by an expert in Oriental rugs. Little did I suspect that I was going to do research and overhaul his draft altogether. Naturally I had to renegotiate the price but so far the contract price has not been fixed. Now, I am beginning to have doubts if it will ever be.

Exploitation of writers by the proprietors of IT start-ups is not uncommon. Because of this system of bidding, they can have the best writers for a song. How would you like to write a 200-word article for $1 or $2? Or finish 100 articles for $50? That's worse than writing for our local weeklies here.

Web design jobs which used to cost $60 a page can now be had for $100 for 10 pages. *Gibaratilyo na* (Already at bargain prices)! Those with Flash animation cost a little more. The more expensive ones are back-end programming jobs and interactive sites using PHP, MySQL and such stuff. Now these are reserved for the nerds and the geeks that our commercially inclined IT schools don't produce.

In sum, we have to fight with our teeth for outsourcing jobs that require very low skills, and we are not even very successful. There is so much hot air in this outsourcing business, but where's the beef?

Emil B. Justimbaste works with Pagtinabangay Foundation in Leyte, a member of the Leyte Coalition of Development NGOs (Leyte CODE). His e-mail address is ebj2006@gmail.com

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THEY SAID

Cycle of violence

"We cannot remain silent.... To remain silent is to allow the vicious cycle of violence to continue in our midst. We must seek to intervene to end this vicious cycle."

—Statement from the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission on the killings of Filipino political activists, journalists and church workers.

Nightmare

"What happened to us is worse than the death of a loved one. This is a nightmare.... We will grow old with this nightmare and it will not go away."

—Anna Liza Franco, stepsister of "Nicole," the woman who accused four American servicemen of rape

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Show farce in people's initiative

THE COUNSELS FOR THE DEFENSE of Liberties (Codal) condemns the Commission on Elections for colluding with Sigaw ng Bayan in railroading the approval of the people's initiative.

Codal has been informed that the Comelec's game plan is to dismiss Sigaw's petition without allowing the opposers to question the signatures, so that Sigaw can immediately raise its petition to the Supreme Court which, in turn, is expected to abandon its Santiago ruling. The Comelec has announced that it will not entertain questions about the authenticity of the signatures which run into millions. Thus, it will guarantee the cover-up of the fraud and deception used in the signature drive for Charter change. This will be no different from the 2004 presidential canvassing and the two impeachment proceedings where objections were merely "noted" and no evidence of fraud was allowed to be presented.

Codal expresses its disgust over the hypocrisy of Chair Benjamin Abalos who, after the Comelec allowed the "verification" of signatures on the Sigaw petition, now claims that the Comelec cannot entertain the petition due to the Supreme Court injunction.

It must be noted that Election Commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Felix Brawner issued a memorandum ordering the verification of the signatures. This shows the duplicity of Abalos and the Comelec and makes them liable for contempt of the Supreme Court.

Codal demands that the Comelec en banc allow objections to the signatures so that opposers may be given the opportunity to prove the farce that is the people's initiative, and so that those responsible may be criminally and administratively charged. Again, just like the impeachment, a cover-up of the fraud committed in the signature campaign for Charter change will only inflame the current instability as another legal arena for redress is closed.

—**NERI JAVIER COLMENARES,**
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Teaching fitness boxing in schools to promote discipline, self-control

SR. PILAR VERZOSA, in her letter (PDI, 8/16/06), said that boxing as a sport should be condemned for its violence; and that it violates decency and, therefore, should not be taught in schools.

I would like to point out that the Olympic Federation, an organization that promotes world unity and idealism through sport, saw boxing as a sport fit to be included in Olympic competitions. And in all the years in which we have sent our athletes to compete in the Olympics, boxing is one sport in which we shine and win medals. In giving the youth the chance to learn how to box, we could be giving them the opportunity that they otherwise may not be able to have, to train in a sport that could lead them into a better and brighter future, along with the hope that they could bring home the elusive Olympic gold medal and honor to our country.

Granted, boxing is a dangerous sport, but all sports contests have some degree of danger in them. Teaching boxing in schools would not be a tool for unruly behavior, but merely a fitness regimen. What will be taught is fitness boxing, a workout that takes the best aspects of workouts used by some of the world's most finely conditioned athletes—boxers; and then uses those aspects to create a full body-intensive workout, without the contact sparring. Boys and girls can be taught the proper moves without actually hitting or harming each other. Fitness boxing has a rigorous training program, incorporating the upper and lower body in one workout.

I feel that teaching boxing to our youth would be beneficial to them. They can be taught discipline, self-control. Boxing would provide them a constructive outlet for their pent-up energy or negative emotions. Boxing is no different from martial arts like karate or judo, in which the student is taught self-control and restraint along with sports skills.

Why should we deprive our youth of opportunities that are available to them?

—**LESLIE LIM,**
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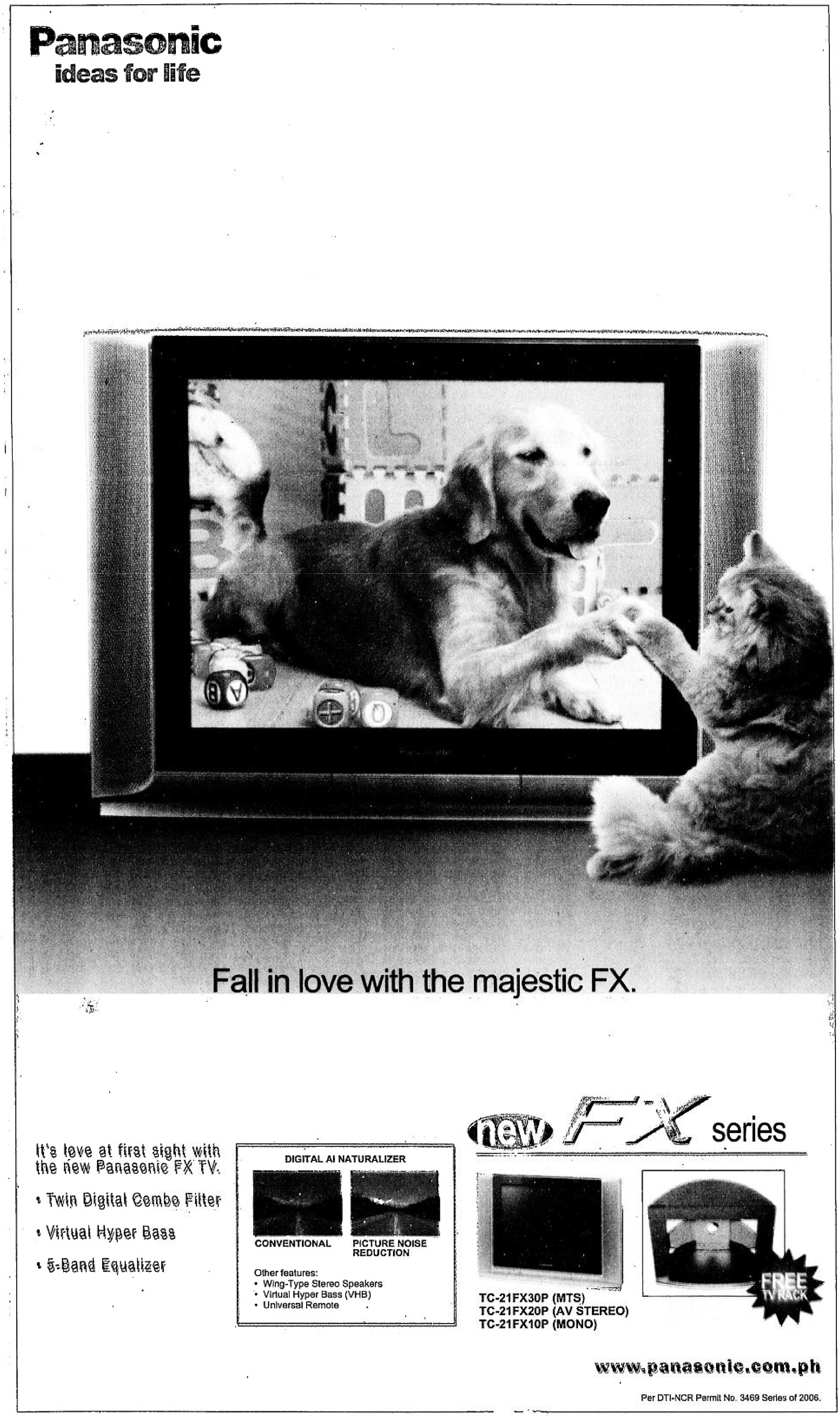

Is UST proud of Gonzalez?

EVERY TIME RAUL GONZALEZ OPENS HIS mouth, he sounds like a soon-to-be launched, publicity-hungry starlet dying to grab the headlines with his "controversial" statements. I am quite certain that UP students and alumni like myself did not find his latest remarks amusing. By calling this country's premier academic institution a "breeding ground" of destabilizers who try to overthrow the government, running around naked and acting as if "they are the only ones who know how to run the country," Gonzalez reveals facets of his character and his obvious ignorance of the Oblation run's historical significance and what it continues to symbolize.

Since he holds a key government position, his tirades are alarming because they represent the voice of a government that threatens to use force to blatantly stifle academic freedom and wantonly disregard and trample on the right to freely express oneself—a scenario scaringly reminiscent of martial law days. History has shown us that the University of the Philippines has not been known to sit around in meek submission and turn a blind eye to injustice and misdeeds being swept under the rug so that "the economy can improve, investors can come in and we can move on."

To call UP students ungrateful to the government is unfair, flawed and misleading. Gonzalez seems to have forgotten that it is the Filipino taxpayers' money that partly pays for state university education. So why should UP students be obligated to feel grateful to the government, especially to one that is as corrupt, oppressive, ineffective and rotten to the core as the present?

Gonzalez seems to be proud of the fact that he graduated from the country's oldest and most well-known Catholic university. It is quite ironic then that he continues to staunchly defend a government with questionable moral fortitude, which makes us seriously doubt if his alma mater is proud of him. We certainly rejoice in the fact that he is not a product of our beloved and esteemed State University.

—**GIOVANNI JMC MANGUIAT JR., MD, DPSP,**
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In wake of oil spill, what gov't must do

THE SOLAR OIL SPILL OFF GUIMARAS showed us how easily efforts to conserve, manage and protect marine resources could easily be put to naught by accidents. The sadder part of this reality is that the government has proven itself nowhere near being prepared for disasters like oil spills. Worst of all, the most adversely affected by such tragedies are the poverty-stricken coastal communities that depend on already-degraded coastal resources for their every day sustenance.

In the recent oil spill, it was the coastal communities that immediately provided the warm bodies for the initial cleanup efforts. Thus, it is only just that the government respond positively to all calls for assistance for the affected coastal communities. It should also penalize Petron and the owners of MT Solar I for the oil spill and oblige them to sufficiently and immediately compensate the communities for the damage wrought upon them by the spill.

But all this may not be enough.

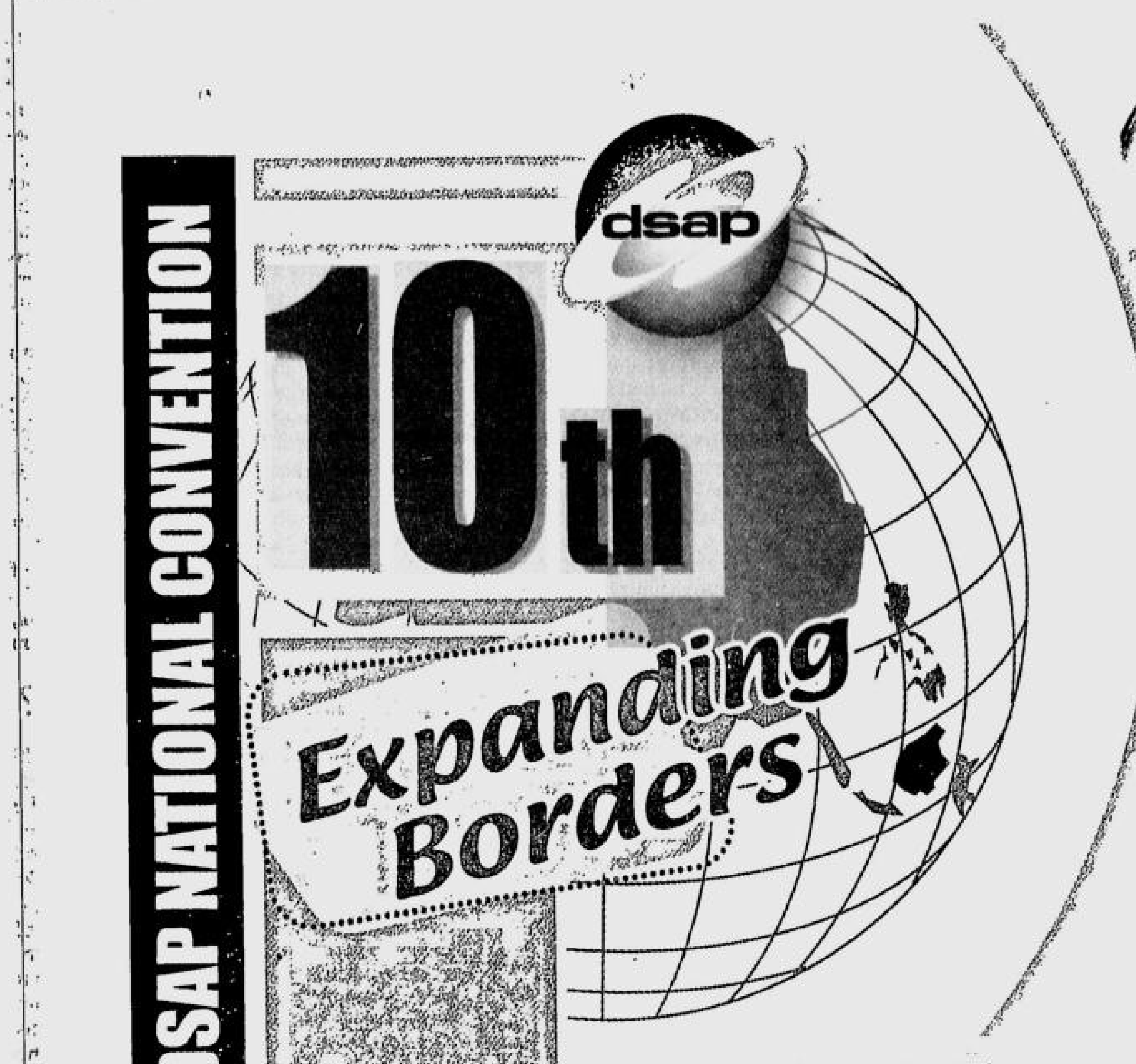
At this time, the government should already be thinking really hard of alternative livelihood for the tens of thousands of coastal families in Guimaras, Iloilo and Negros Occidental who obviously would no longer have fishing as a means of livelihood—probably in the next five to 10 years. For now, they are currently being paid to scoop out oil slick, but the income is only good while the cleanup drive lasts. Harder times are bound to come when national attention shifts to other concerns and the victims of this tragedy are left on their own.

Also, the government should adopt measures to ensure that the Solar oil spill is the last to hit Philippine coasts. This also means increasing the level of preparedness of our coastal communities for such calamities. Most importantly, this means helping local governments of coastal towns to become more vigilant and capable not only in monitoring activities in their municipal waters (especially the risky ones), but also in protecting and managing their resources for optimal, sustainable use.

This can be done simply by religiously implementing our country's Fisheries Code (Republic Act 8550). The law is already sufficient to protect our coastal resources and ensure their sustainable use.

—**RENE VIDALLO,**
staff, Tambuyog Development Center,
91 V. Luna Rd., Sikatuna Village, Quezon City

Drugstores Association of the Philippines



Sept. 6 - 8, 2006
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Messages

Warmest greetings to the officers and members of the **Drugstores Association of the Philippines** (DSAP) as you hold your10th Annual Convention.

I commend your efforts to make quality and affordable medicines within reach of ordinary Filipinos. Indeed, you complement our health agenda that seeks to establish a more efficient and responsive healthcare delivery system in our country.

This convention shows your collective resolve to explore new approaches to improve your business and better address the growing needs of your clientele. I hope that this gathering of drugstore owners will result in sustainable cooperation and healthy competition among you.

I urge you to continue supporting our development agenda so that we can beat the odds and advance more rapidly as a nation. Your contribution to our national aspiration of a better life for all Filipinos is indeed most appreciated.

I wish you all a fruitful convention. Mabuhay Kayong Lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO Gloria Arroyo
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

My warmest greetings to the officers and member of the Drugstore Association of the Philippines (DSAP) on the holding of their 10th Annual Convention entitled " Expanding Borders".

As you underscore the need to achieve and strengthen unity among the association of drugstore in the country by continually advancing the professional growth of your members through scientific sessions, the Department of Health would like to extend its sincere appreciation for your support to the various health program of the government. May you continue to be a strong pillar in health development.

I encourage you to coordinate and consolidate our efforts and utilize resources to work for national development and the attainment of our common visions of a healthy citizenry and progressive society.

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE, M.D, Msc.
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

In behalf of the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), I wish to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Drugstores Association of the Philippines (DSAP) on the occasion of its 10th Annual Convention which will be held on 06-08 September 2006 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel with the theme "Expanding Borders".

DSAP has long been a vital partner of BFAD in its drive against counterfeit drug products. It is my ardent desire for it to be able to attain objectives and for the members to be responsive to the needs of Filipinos and make them aware that providing safe, efficacious and affordable medicines is one of the noblest deeds that one can offer to the Filipino people.

Likewise, DSAP's objective of strengthening unity among its members, as well as, equipping them with tools to compete effectively in the market is truly worthwhile and laudable.

Again, our warmest congratulations!

PRO. LETICIA-BARBARA B. GUTIERREZ, MS
Director, BFAD

Drugstores are not simply dispensers or sellers of medical products and medicines. They are a part of a highly-regarded industry which values, enhances,and protects human life. It has to measure up to high standards of ethical practices and oath of sincerity for all those engaged in the field of medical practices and medicine.

We are glad that the Drugstore Association of the Philippines has assumed the leadership in the trading of medical products and medicine. We are counting on the association not only to unite and promote the interest of their millions costumers.

We hope that in their 10th annual convention, the Drugstore Association of the Philippines will come up with effective measures to weed out unscrupulous dealers, prevent the sale of fake medical products affordable and readily available to the millions of their fellowmen.

Drugstores are trading with products on which the health and lives of human beings are at stake. They must continually earn the trust and the respect of their costumers.

FELICIANO BELMONTE, JR Sgd
CITY MAYOR IN QUEZON CITY

On this 10th DSAP National Convention, we mark another milestone in the association's history where together for the past ten years, we have come together in partnership with our sponsors, and in solidarity as one body fostering the vision of a globally competitive drugstore industry.

As in our past conventions, we can succeed only with the trust and confidence of our sponsors and the cooperation of our members. Our line-up of speakers will assess the present conditions and offer us the opportunities to improve or expand the business. A better appreciation of the present and future scenarios for our business will hopefully enlighten us towards wiser decisions in our operations.

Plenary sessions are balanced with product features and entertainment from our sponsors, to allow interaction and fellowship. Expect our sponsors to give us their best as they promise to provide us some new products, special promos and gifts in exchange for our presence in the convention.

Finally, may I reiterate our call for solidarity, most especially in our membership meeting as we strive to give DSAP a wider influence and effectiveness particularly in speaking up in the more critical issues and regulations that affect our industry.

Mabuhay ang DSAP!

Gloria N. De Chavez Gloria de Chavez
Chairperson, DSAP Board

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings to all the delegates from the 49 DSAP Chapters nationwide. It is my privelege to welcome and thank our loyal business partners for their unwavering support throughout the years.

Mr. Rodel Vizconde, this year's Convention Chair leaves no stone unturned to bring excitement and value for all attendees. Unprecedented, with about 100 exhibitors to showcase new product launches and best sellers, both pharmaceuticals and nutriceuticals. With sweeping changes in operations and competitions, presentations on strategies bordering on conventional and non-conventional approaches can be very useful. The Talakayan portion will surely open doors for new learnings and challenges. I encourage all members not to miss theGeneral Membeship Meeting where major DSAP upadates and concerns will be tackled. Expect early bird bonuses and unannounced raffles.
The convention venue combines the facilities of the Crowne Plaza and the Galleria Manila. Only an elevator away are the three hospitality suites, one on the 4th level and two on the 29th floor which will set the mood for relaxation after exploring the booths and also indulge in light conversations to de-stress the brain.

Let this 10th DSAP National Convention be fulfiling for all of us. Allow this gathering to be the venue to discover more reasons on how we can make our drugstore the "drugstore of choice" in the community we serve. Then and only then can we claim that the 3-day convention had indeed been a worthwhile experience.

Ma. ERLINDA B. PASCUAL
DSAP National President

On behalf of the Organizing Commitee and dedicated officers and members of the Drugstores Association of the Philippines and the five (5) host NCR Chapters, I humbly welcome all the delegates to the 10th DSAP National Convention with the theme "Expanding Borders"!

I wish to commend the solidarity of the various committees of the National Board and all NCR Chapters who have worked hard to bring this year's National Convention to a higher level. We have a record breaking participation with eight (8) Co Presentors, two (2) Major Sponsors and more than a hundred trade exhibit booths. A clear proof that our trade partners believe in the growing strength of DSAP through "Expanding Borders" and its mission and vision.

My heartfelt gratitude to all our Sponsors, Trade Exhibitors and most of all, to all DSAP members for supporting this year's National Convention,

To all of you, from the bottom of my heart...

MARAMING, MARAMING SALAMAT PO!

RODEL "Bhoyet" MARCELO VIZCONDE
Chairman
10th DSAP National Convention

Convention Program

Day 1 September 6, Wednesday

8:00 a.m. **Registration**
Crowne Plaza, Ballroom A, 4th floor
10:00 a.m. **Opening of Hospitality Suites**
2:00 p.m. **Opening of Exhibits – DSAP Trade Expo 2006**
Attire: DSAP Shirt
5:00 p.m. **Meeting with Chapter Presidents**

Day 2 September 7, Thursday

Business Attire

7:30 a.m. **Eucharistic Celebration**
Celebrant: Rev. Fr. Rufino Sescon, Jr.
9:00 a.m. **Opening Ceremonies**
Parade of Sponsors & Chapter Presidents, Committee Chairs, DSAP Board

Welcome Remarks –
Ms. Erlinda Pascual
DSAP National President

Convention Formal Opening –
Mr. Rodel Vizconde,
Convention Chairperson

Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Ms. Gloria N. De Chavez
Chairperson, DSAP Board
Keynote Address

10:00 a.m. **"Sara Lee Presents..."**
10:45 a.m. **Session Chairperson: Mr. Dino Chua**
Plenary Session 1
Franchising Opportunities for Drugstore Owners
Mr. Samie Lim
Chairman, Tourism, Retail & Franchising
Philippine Chamber of Commerce & Industry

11:15 **UGAT POWER WITH PHAREX**

12:00 **Lunch with DIETHELM**

1:30 **Plenary Session 2 - Talakayan**
Panel Discussion: Trends that Impact The Drugstore Industry
-Public Health Welfare & Gov't Projects
Dennis S. Quiambao, M.D.
Department of Health
-The Prices of Medicines
Janette Loreto Garim, M.D.
Representative, Iloilo 1st District

Panelists:
1. Dr. Alan Kintanar
2. Ms. Celia Carlos
3. Ms. Emelina Caritativo
Moderator: Mr. Charlie David Martinez

2:15 **A Magical Moment with RHEA**

3:00 **Plenary Session 3 – Talakayan (Part 2)**
-Retail Trade Liberalization Act
Cielito F. Habito
Director, Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development

-Current Trends in the Pharmaceutical Industry
Michael Dela Cruz
President, Philippine Chamber of Pharmaceutical Industry Inc

3:45 **Snacks**
4:00 **Exhibit Activities / Free Time**
7:00 **WYETH Night**
Come in your GREEN & YELLOW Attire

Day 3 September 8, Friday

Business Attire

8:00 a.m. **Assembly**
With Raffle Items & Gifts for Early Birds
8:20 **President's Report**
8:50 **Session Chairperson: Patricia Elazegui**
Plenary Session 4
Opportunity in Pharmaceutical Care
Hon. Reynaldo Umali,
9:20 **Plenary Session 5**
Opportunity in Personal Care Drugstores
Sponsored by UNILEVER.
10:00 **Plenary Session 6 -**
Spotting Opportunities to Expand My Business
Prof. Alejandrino 'Andy' Ferreria,
10:40 **PFIZER: Dapat Sulit**
11:00 **Plenary Session 7**
Expanding My Borders
Eugenio 'Bo' Sanchez, Jr.,
12:00 **NESTLE LUNCH**
1:30 **ZUELLIG Raffle Draw**
1:50 **DSAP Membership Meeting**
4:30 **Snacks**
4:45 – 6:00p.m. **Exhibit Activities / Free Time**
7:00 p.m. **AWARDS NIGHT**
An Affair with Unilab
Dinner with Raffle / Unilever Segment
Formal Attire: Long Gown for the Ladies, Coat & Tie for the Gentlemen

Registration Fee

Registration Fee	On-Site Registration
DSAP Member	P4,500
Non-Member	P5,000

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Security officials go after terror expert

From page A1

the video which he said he took while aboard the plane and which showed him inside the aircraft lavatory with the bomb components he had sneaked in.

The components included a small blasting cap, an adaptor inside of which he said he had hidden some C4 plastic, and a cell phone. He had secreted the bomb materials in his jacket, computer bag, belt and shoes.

He showed the video to this journalist and two other people, including another security expert known to the police, and another civilian.

Kibitzing waiter

The antiterror expert said he was, in fact, hoping he would get caught for it would mean that the human and technical aspects of the security procedures he was testing were working well.

A waiter at the restaurant tried to kibitz while he was showing the video.

The expert said it was the same video that he showed to airport personnel assigned to the scanning and X-ray areas of the airport, to prove to them that he was able to get away with it.

He showed the video during an antiterrorism training exercise in Davao attended by a group of security and airport personnel.

The whole point

"I am not saying the scanning and the X-ray machines are defective," the expert said during the restaurant conversation, which took place last week before the INQUIRER ran his explosive story.

"The point I was trying to prove was the laxity and the human factor of security here. Do airport personnel know what to look for and where to look?"

There was also another reason he showed his video during the seminar, he said.

The expert said he carried out his exercise a few days after British police foiled a plot to blow up US-bound airliners in the air using "liquid" explosives.

The first question that hit him when he heard the news was: "What if that's what the terrorists want the whole world to think? That they have developed liquid bombs when, in fact, they have not yet advanced in that area of bomb-making?"

Penetration and insertion

Based on early actual terror attacks, there has been no evidence to prove that, indeed, terrorists had achieved the capability to launch a liquid bomb attack, he said.

After the London alert on Aug. 11, attention was focused on liquid substances carried by passengers.

This was the basis for his "penetration and insertion test," the expert said during the two-hour conversation over pizza, pasta and iced tea.

"I went traditional," he said, explaining his choice of materials and why he hid them on his person, including his shoes.

He said his biggest frustration was that he was not caught.

"If you walk through and remove all the metal items from your body, nothing will really beep. But they don't look at each of the luggage items. They saw the electrical adaptor but not the C4 component which looked like gel hidden inside," he said in Filipino.

Where's the air marshal?

The aircraft he boarded was another story, the expert said.

"Where was the civilian marshal in that aircraft? It's not enough that the flight attendants are courteous and gracious to their passengers, it's most important that they give attention to the behavior of their passengers," the expert said.

He pointed to the portion of his video that showed him taking off his shoes and exposing the blasting cap attached to the sole. He said he shot that portion of the video while sitting in the mid-row section of the aircraft.

Asked what the person next to him was doing while he was taking the video, the expert said: "Nothing!"

He also said he deliberately spent a long time inside the lavatory to see if any of the passengers or flight attendants would suspect anything.

When he finally showed the video to the estimated 50 people who attended the seminar he conducted in Davao City, he said those present acknowledged the lapses.

He said the seminar participants saw this as a "wake-up call" that real terrorists might still use the same "tactics" they had used in the past—and not the so-called sophisticated techniques which authorities said the terrorists were now capable of.

He said the recommendations he gave in that lecture were immediately implemented at the Davao International Airport.

But what if he got caught? Who would cover for him?

"No one," he said, adding that he was not even expecting that the person who asked him to carry out the exercise would vouch for him.

"A real terrorist does not coordinate and reveal his plan, not even to the one who ordered him," he said.

The expert clarified that while he was commissioned and hired to conduct the testing, how to go about it was entirely up to him.

"This is the truth about terrorism," he said. "You trust no one and just do it, aware of all the risks involved. That's why it's called a suicide mission. The only missing element here was the actual assembly of the bomb components and the push of the button."

"I knew what I was doing. I only wanted to show the possibilities," he added.

The expert said he had done similar test cases in the past but on a smaller scale that did not involve such sensitive and high-profile targets.

Not in hiding

The man has been in the security business for years and has published a book on explosives, guns and ammunition. His book has been sold in gun stores nationwide since 2001.

"The ironic part of it is that airport authorities are encouraging the antiterrorism expert to come out but at the same time remark that he could be liable for his actions," another security expert said, referring to statements made by security people that the man could be held criminally liable for what he had done.

The second expert said the man who carried out the test was "not in hiding but contemplating."

"The real problem is the terror threat out there that may be carried out by a determined and driven suicide bomber which the expert had simulated," he said.

Smuggler ...

From page A1

man who had carried out the operation and the man said he had been "authorized" to do it.

Caro hesitated to confirm if it was Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte—the presidential adviser on antiterrorism—who had given the authorization. A source privy to the investigation had previously told the INQUIRER that initial results showed it was Duterte who had commissioned the test.

Caro also said the man had admitted performing the test, but denied he had used actual bomb materials.

Dummy materials

"He told me that he brought only dummy training materials. So I told him to correct what was published, that he had a live IED (improvised explosive device)," Caro said.

Like Caro, Duterte claimed the man also used dummy materials.

Neither Duterte nor Caro explained why dummy bomb materials would be used in an exercise if its purpose was to test whether airport security personnel were capable and alert enough to detect a bomb being carried by a passenger.

"*Mukhang malalim ito* (This looks like a deep operation)," said the source who is privy to the investigation of the incident that has embarrassed people involved in airport security.

The source, who asked not to be identified because the investigation was still in progress, said investigators already had an idea of what took place but declined to give more details.

Duterte had been quoted by the Sunstar Davao newspaper as saying: "We have an explanation to that (the test) but it has to be cleared by the highest authority."

Airport chief Alfonso Cusi said aviation authorities needed to question the expert who carried out the test to obtain full and firsthand information about what he did.

Interviewed by the INQUIRER in Davao City, Duterte admitted the security test was performed but denied he had ordered it.

Only clay

But the mayor said the expert who conducted it was just trying to test aviation security at airports to see how adequate their security measures were.

"The report (on the test) is true, but inaccurate because at no time at all was there an explosive," he said.

He said that what the expert carried with him was "clay."

"It was just a dummy," he said. "What he did on the plane was just a simulation."

The mayor would not give details of the personal circumstances of the expert, citing security and the sensitivity of his work.

"I cannot give you his name," he said.

Duterte also said the "guy" was a military and security expert and had been a "resource person" in several lectures on explosives for the PNP Aviation Security Command, for military personnel of Task Force Davao and for security guards.

He also said the expert conducted the test on his own and denied that "someone" in high authority had given the order for the test.

"There was never an instruction from anybody and I cannot give an authority to do it," he said.

He, however, said the expert did nothing wrong and that the man had submitted his recommendations after pulling off his feat.

Duterte said he would look at the incident positively as the authorities were now more vigilant and were undertaking new security measures.

"Because of it, they already know where to look," he said.

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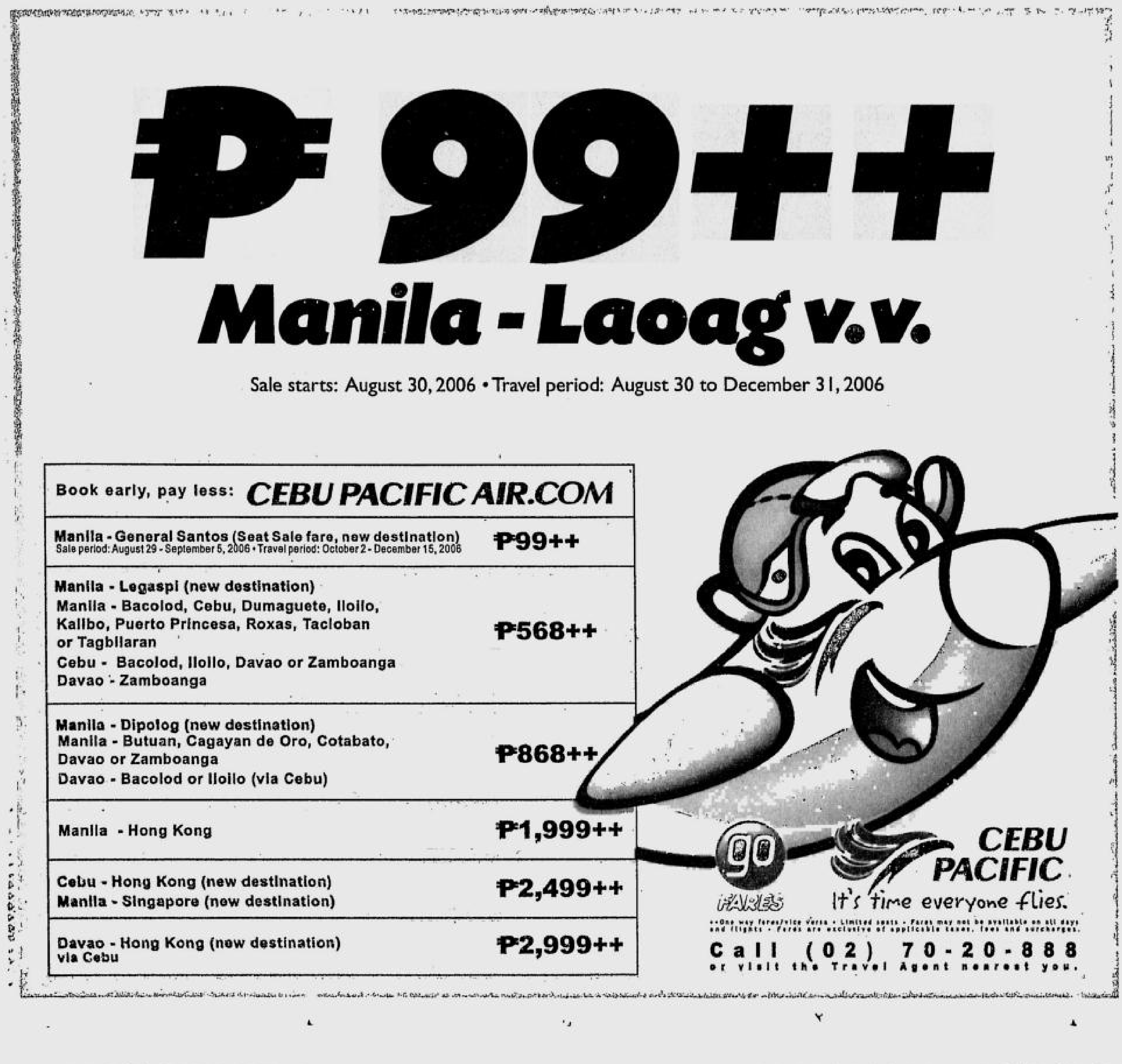

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Spain rips Greece, rules World Championship

From page A1

Especially considering the near-perfect performance by Greece (8-1) in a 101-95 semifinal win over the United States. The European champions put on an impressive offensive and defensive display in getting to the final for the first time.

Felipe Reyes started in Gasol's place and had 10 points in the first half, one less than he had in the whole tournament—he was limited to three games because of back problems.

Gasol's younger brother, Marc, gave Spain big minutes early in the middle. He had three rebounds in the game's first 17 minutes. He averaged 1.9 coming into Sunday's game.

Everything went Spain's way as it took a 43-23 halftime lead. Its other stars were playing at their normal level and the bench was playing well above its head.

Meanwhile, Greece looked nothing like the team that had received plaudits from around the world for the way it convincingly beat the United States.

Greece shot 63 percent in the semifinal win. In the first half against Spain, the percentage was less than half that (31 percent).

There was no big push from Greece in the third quarter. Gasol's teammates wouldn't allow it.

The lead was 54-34 with 10 minutes to go. It got only bigger, and Greece couldn't even score half as many points as it did against the United States.

The Spanish team had shirts on the bench declaring "Pau is playing too."

Gasol came out of the players' tunnel before the game on crutches, wearing his red warmup top and jeans. As he sat on the bench while the teams were warming up, Greece forward Sofoklis Schortsanitis and coach Panagiotis Yannakis came over to him for visits.

He was up and hopping on one foot for each huddle. Players hugged him or slapped hands with him at each timeout. They were winning this game for him.

Gasol, who plays for the Memphis Grizzlies, averaged 21.3 points and 9.4 rebounds. He has a partial fracture in his left foot, an injury the Grizzlies said will require surgery.

Jorge Garbajosa, who signed with the Toronto Raptors this summer, and Juan Carlos Navarro each had 20 points for Spain, which was fourth in 1982. Reyes finished with those 10 points and Marc Gasol grabbed four more rebounds, but their play off the bench was much more than numbers.

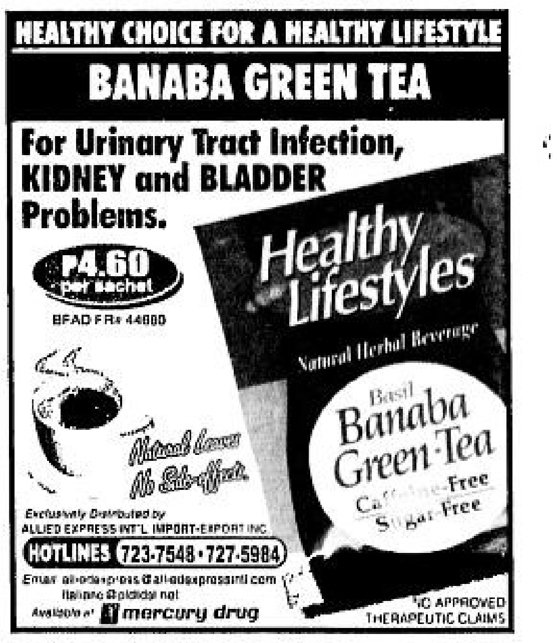
Mihalis Kakiouzis had 17 points for Greece, which finished fourth in 1994 and 1998.

It was Europe's third straight world title—Yugoslavia won in 1998 and 2002—and it will have the home continent advantage in 2010 with the tournament in Turkey.

The United States won the bronze medal with a 96-81 victory over Argentina on Saturday. *AP*

SPAIN'S Pau Gasol (right), who missed the game due to an injury, joins teammates Felipe Reyes and Rudy Fernandez in celebration after their victory over Greece during their final game at the World Championship in Saitama, Japan.

REUTERS



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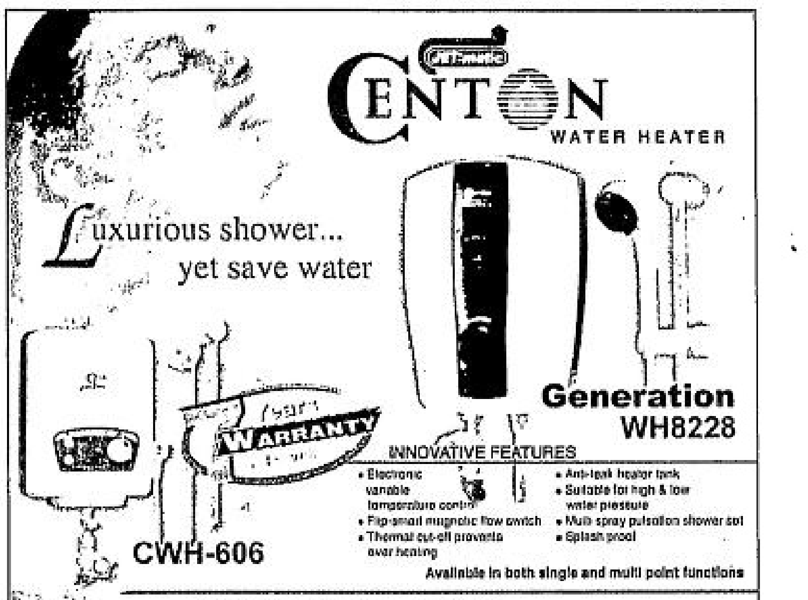

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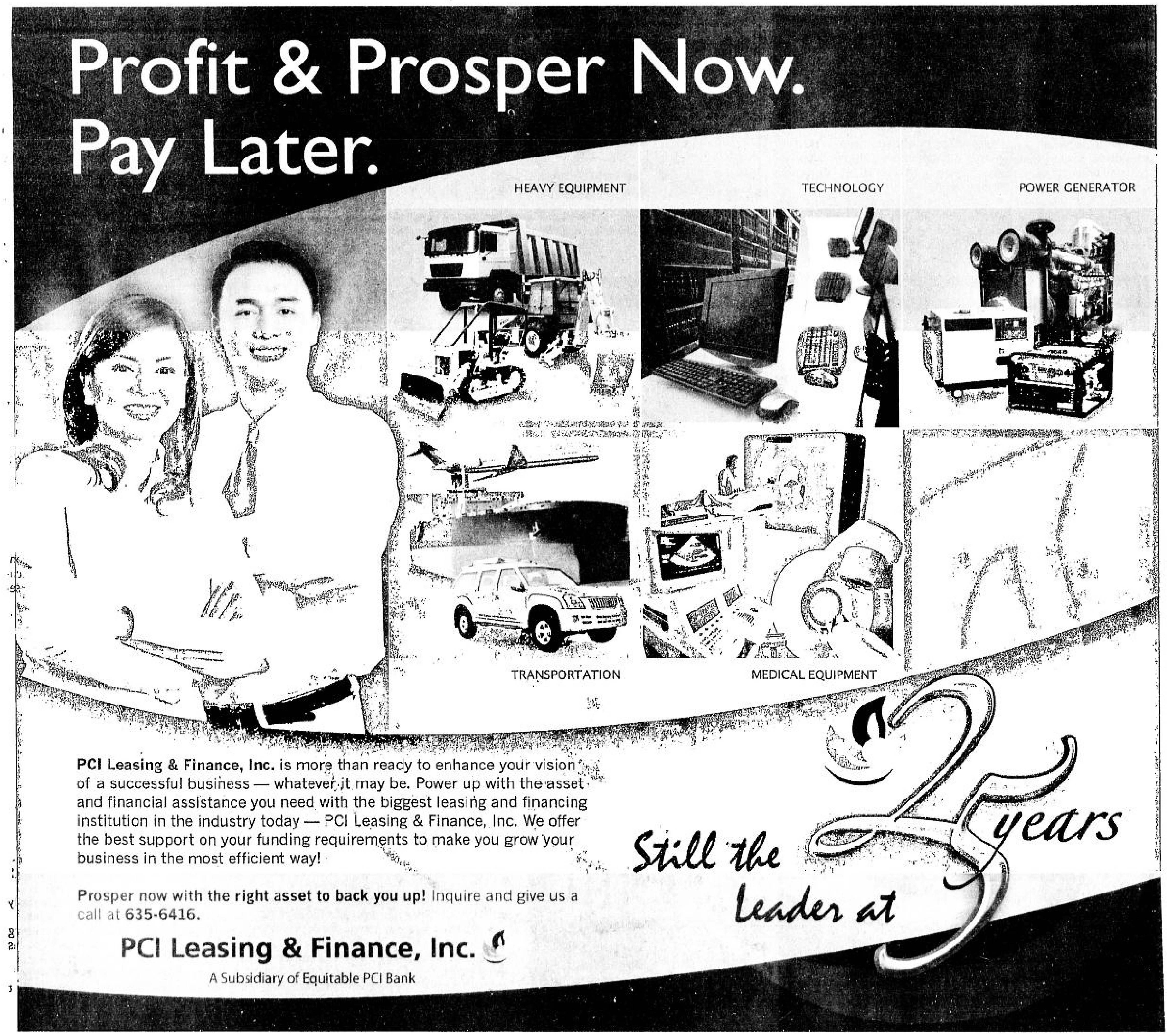

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Palparan claims victory in Ecija town

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

LUPAO, NUEVA ECIJA—CAPPING A ONE-YEAR anticommunist drive in Central Luzon, Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, outgoing chief of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, on Sunday claimed victory over communist rebels in this town, which he called the "center of gravity" of the New People's Army (NPA).

Palparan said Lupao is now "out of the control and threat of the NPA."

"[The NPA] has lost its battle in Lupao. The military, and the government for that matter, has taken it. Peace will start coming to Lupao," said Palparan, who was blamed for the series of extra-judicial executions in Central Luzon.

The general, in past interviews, had denied any hand in the incidents.

Lt. Col. Gregory Cayetano, commander of the 71st Infantry Battalion, said about 3,000 residents, among them rebel sympathizers, assembled at the town's gymnasium after a rally at the town plaza led by Mayor Alexander Joanino.

The residents carried placards condemning the NPA, Communist Party of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front.

At around 4 p.m., four effigies of Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo and Teodoro Casiño and CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison were readied behind the stage for burning at the end of the program.

These activities were the culmination of the three-day anticommunist seminar in the town, Cayetano said.

The military-organized protests drew a large crowd even as the town was the site of a massacre blamed on the military on Feb. 10, 1987. Ten people in Barangay Namulandayan were killed allegedly by Army soldiers.

Lupao, Palparan said, joined the "liberated areas" of San Ildefonso, San Miguel, Pandi and San Rafael in Bulacan; Gapan, San Jose, Guimba, Peñaranda and Cuyapo in Nueva Ecija; and San Fernando, Angeles and Mabalacat in Pampanga.

Ecologist discourages use of hair in oil slick cleanup

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—A NEGRENSE microbial ecologist warned against the use of hair and oil dispersants in cleaning up the oil slick from the sunken MT Solar I.

"If you really want to help Guimaras don't cut your hair. Donate biodegradable absorbents instead, like sugarcane trash, corn cobs, rice hull," Aidine Galvan, who discussed bioremediation of the MT Solar I oil spill at a forum hosted Friday by the Philippine Reef and Rainforest Conservation Foundation Inc. and the Negros Forest and Ecological Foundation in Bacolod City.

She pointed out that when persons die and are buried, hair is usually found to be intact long after, when their bodies are exhumed.

She said it would be difficult to dispose of bunker fuel-covered hair, as it will only cause contamination.

On the other hand, biodegradable absorbents covered in oil and placed in a lined pit could be degraded into soil-like material, which can later be used in one's garden, she said.

Galvan also warned that the use of oil dispersants is only effective in open deep water but never along the coastline or in shallow waters within 50 feet deep.

"That is because if you use these dispersants in shallow water, it will bring the oil to the bottom and endanger the marine life, like corals," she said.

The cleanup of the MT Solar I spill should be designed to deal with a notorious oil type, she said.

Bunker fuel is notorious because of its complex hydrocarbon structure that is hard to degrade and is very toxic, she said.

Maria Athena Ronquillo Ballesteros, Greenpeace International Climate and Energy campaigner, also said her group has not called for donations of hair, which she said was just a media spin.

Unfortunately President Macapagal-Arroyo and politicians jumped on the issue, Ballesteros said.

"So let's keep reiterating the need for more practical indigenous materials to help as absorbents," she said.

Gov. Joseph Marañon Thursday said Negros Occidental has purchased coconut coir from Oriental Negros at P7 per kilo to be used for spill booms.

Marañon said it has also been suggested that the bagasse from sugar mills can be used for spill booms. Oil covered bagasse would be more effective in the generation of electricity at sugar mills, he said.

Melvin Purzuelo of the Save our Seas Movement also called on advertising firms or groups that have used tarpaulins to donate these for the cleanup of Guimaras. These can be reused as liners of temporary containment areas, she added.

Two weeks since Petron promised Governor (JC Rahman) Nava to provide a barge as a temporary containment area of debris gathered, Petron has not yet delivered on it, Purzuelo said.

The groundwater source of communities are gravely threatened by oil leaching from piles of debris, he said.

COAST GUARDS load the improvised spill boom donated by Ilonggos to prevent more oil spill from reaching the shoreline of Sitio Sumirib, Barangay La Paz, Nueva Valencia, Guimaras.
ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

ROUNDUP

6 hostages saved

MABALACAT, Pampanga—Six employees of a money transfer firm here were saved from four men who held them hostage for almost four hours on Saturday, police said. The standoff at the Western Union branch here ended at 4:40 p.m., according to Pampanga police director Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina. The four suspects, whose names have yet to be released, surrendered to Espina, Mayor Marino Morales and GMA 7 reporter Susan Enriquez during the fourth and last round of negotiations. Espina said the suspects were residents of Mabalacat and previously involved in a series of robbery incidents in the town and Angeles City. Police said the suspects resorted to hostage taking when the police arrived to foil the robbery at the money transfer firm.
Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig, Inquirer Central Luzon

4 life terms for rapist

VIRAC, Catanduanes—The regional trial court has sentenced in absentia a detainee who escaped while confined at the provincial hospital 11 days ago, to four life terms for raping his own cousin in November last year. RTC Branch 42 Presiding Judge Genie G. Gapas-Agbada found Deolito T. Villegas, 25, guilty beyond reasonable doubt for raping his 14-year-old cousin four times in San Miguel town. He was also ordered to pay his victim a total of P400,000 as civil and moral damages. Both the accused and the victim were not present during the promulgation Thursday, the latter having decided not to appear for the sentencing when she concluded her testimony. Villegas is the object of a police manhunt.
Fernan Gianan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Campus journalists' meet

CASIGURAN, Sorsogon—At least 200 campus journalists and school paper advisers from Bicol attended a three-day seminar workshop at the Casiguran Central School from Aug. 31 to Sept. 2, according to the Bicol Association of Secondary School Paper Advisers (Basspa). The annual activity, which is part of preparations for the national secondary schools press conference, was expected to strengthen the skills of the campus journalists and their advisers, according to Basspa president Joan Lagata. The Center for Community Journalism and Development gave lectures on public journalism and layouting, she said.
Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

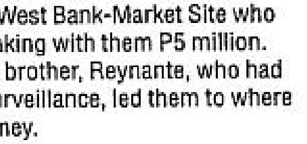
Sorsogon cops hailed

LEGAZPI CITY—The Bicol Regional Peace and Order Council has commended the Sorsogon provincial police office which recovered more than P4 million, said to be part of the loot of the Aug. 22 East-West Bank robbery in Calamba City. Sorsogon Provincial Director Senior Supt. Joel Regondola said the policemen led by Supt. Leonidas Castillo, chief of the SPPO Investigation Division, recovered the loot buried beside the house of suspect Marvin Pura in Sorsogon City on Aug. 25. Pura is one of the three security guards at the East-West Bank-Market Site who held up the bank, taking with them P5 million. Castillo said Pura's brother, Reynante, who had been under their surveillance, led them to where they buried the money.
Bobby Q. Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

2 soldiers hurt in clash

LUCENA CITY—Two Army soldiers were wounded in an encounter with at least 15 suspected New People's Army rebels in Barangay Ilayang Atingay in Magdalena, Laguna on Thursday. Lt. Col. Francisco Delfin, commanding officer of the Army's 1st Infantry Battalion based in Cavinti, Laguna, identified the wounded soldiers as Pfc. Valentino Domingo and Pvt. Rodolfo Escoreal. "But they were only superficially wounded," Delfin said in a mobile phone interview.
Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Gunless in Baguio


WOW! PARANG LONDON!
ARMLESS, HARMLESS!

BAGUIO CITY—The summer capital's policemen are pounding their beats these days minus their firearms, but only because they are part of a campaign to boost tourism. Cordillera police director Chief Supt. Raul Gonzales made this announcement to allay fears that the city police are unable to arm their policemen. Like most government agencies, the Philippine National Police has difficulty replenishing equipment because of lack of funds, he said. Only 60 percent of policemen have been issued hand guns, and over 80 percent of them carry government-issued rifles. Gonzales said the Department of Tourism asked the PNP to assign unarmed policemen to city streets.
Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

12 outstanding Caviteños feted

TAGAYTAY CITY—A 91-YEAR-OLD MUSICIAN, a Catholic priest famous for his healing powers and a controversial government executive often accused of using his agency as "milking cow" for the First Family led the 12 awardees in the 4th Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Outstanding Achievement Awards held Thursday night at the Tagaytay International Convention Center here.

The award, named after the country's first president, is given to outstanding Caviteños who have made a mark in their respective fields of endeavor.

Leading the awardees is musician and former movie star Josefino Cenizal, a native of Kawit town, who made a mark for his composition "Hindi Kita Malimot," a ballad celebrating the splendor of an undying love.

He also composed the music for Levi Celerio's Christmas carol "Ang Pasko Ay Sumapit."

"Of all the awards and citations I received, this honor is more meaningful to me because it was given here in my beloved Cavite and given by fellow Caviteños," Cenizal said in his speech.

Also feted were Fr. Corsie Legaspi for his healing ministry, Efraim Genuino, chair of the Philippine Gaming Corp. for government service.

Other recipients were historian and book author Dr. Emmanuel Calairo of Dasmariñas (history and literary arts); Supreme Court Associate Justice Presbitero Velasco of Ternate (law); UP professor Dr. Elmer Ordoñez of Imus (education and literary arts); Presidential Management Staff deputy chief Armando de Castro of Silang (government service).

Meralco president engineer Jesus Francisco of Cavite City (business management); Rear Admiral Alfredo Abueg Jr. of Kawit (naval service); philanthropist engineer Lambert Lee of Cavite City (business and entrepreneurship); former Carmona Mayor Roy Loyola (industrial development); and Dr. Augusto Balagtas of Naic (medicine and community service). *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Gov't-MNLF peace pact should be revived–Nur

DAVAO CITY—TEN YEARS AFTER HE signed it together with government representatives, Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) leader Nur Misuari described the final peace agreement as an ill-fated pact that must be exhumed and resuscitated.

Misuari, who is under detention on rebellion charges, was granted an 18-hour freedom to attend Saturday's 10th commemoration of the agreement he signed with the Ramos administration.

On Saturday afternoon, the two parties again sat together at the ballroom of the Royal Mandaya Hotel, which was packed with Misuari supporters clamoring for his freedom.

In his speech, Misuari recalled the struggle of the Moro people which led to the creation of the MNLF. Former President Fidel V. Ramos, on the other hand, was beaming as he enumerated what he believed were the gains of the peace pact.

Temporary project

"Peace without development is just ceasefire. Development without peace is just a temporary project," Ramos said. He stressed that Mindanao found relative peace upon the signing of the agreement.

But Misuari had a different view.

"We thought that the peace agreement was the way for the people of Mindanao to attain peace and development. We thought that the peace agreement will end the misery of the people. But the government decided to undo the peace agreement by unilaterally implementing it," he said.

"They implemented the peace agreement as if I was already forgotten ... You can't impose on Mindanao and we cannot allow you to impose peace on us. If you will, we will reject it in cold hand," Misuari lamented.

Chanting

His supporters chanted "Allahu Akbar" and waved yellow posters that read "Free Nur Misuari Now."

Misuari said no law could ever solve the conflict in Mindanao.

The peace agreement started to fail when the government tried to change some provisions that only defeated the purpose of Mindanao autonomy, former Sen. Santanina Rasul earlier said.

"The government changed some of the terms of the agreement by a congressional act. The revision of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Law, for instance, was changed to give the national government control over the national resources of the region," she said.

Rasul acknowledged that the MNLF also violated the agreement, but she stressed that the national government made most of the gravest violations.

The government still ignites anger among the majority of the Bangsamoro people with the continued detention of Misuari, she added.

"Nur Misuari is the most influential Moro leader today and he will remain influential if the government will continually detain him. The government needs to release him because it is only through him that the peace agreement be fully implemented," she said.

Misuari said that despite the tangible projects and development enumerated by the government and the various foreign donor programs, the status of the agreement was questionable.

"Everyone here will not believe that the peace agreement is actually alive and kicking, so to speak. In fact, I can tell that no one here believes that the peace agreement still exists," he said.

"Let us then exhume the peace agreement from the grave and resuscitate it ... We have to exert gargantuan effort to resuscitate the peace agreement," he added.

As he spoke, Misuari hinted at his desire to sit in the tripartite meeting between the MNLF, government, and the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Jeddah this year.

Members of the influential body have been urging the government to free Misuari for the peace agreement to be fully implemented. The OIC was instrumental in the signing of the pact when it urged Misuari to negotiate with the government.

Ex-Ambassador Manuel Yan, then government peace panel chief, and Misuari signed the document in Manila in 1996. Misuari later became ARMM governor. His legal problems started when his followers, allegedly on his instructions, simultaneously attacked government targets in November 2001, killing over 100 people.

Misuari fled to Malaysia, where he was arrested and deported back to the Philippines.

Jeffrey M. Tupas, Germelina Lacorte and Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao

MISUARI

Anti-Money Laundering Council

WARNING

Do not be fooled by text scammers!

The public is again being warned about text scams which continue to victimize people, including overseas Filipino workers.

MODUS OPERANDI

Text scammers use fictitious names or pose as government officials, send fraudulent text messages to their victims saying that their mobile phone numbers won in a raffle allegedly sponsored by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas or other institutions.

The scammers tell their victims that to be able to claim their alleged prize, they should first send money to the scammers thru a designated account in a bank or remittance company.

The scammers also require their victims to send prepaid load to the scammers' prepaid mobile phone numbers.

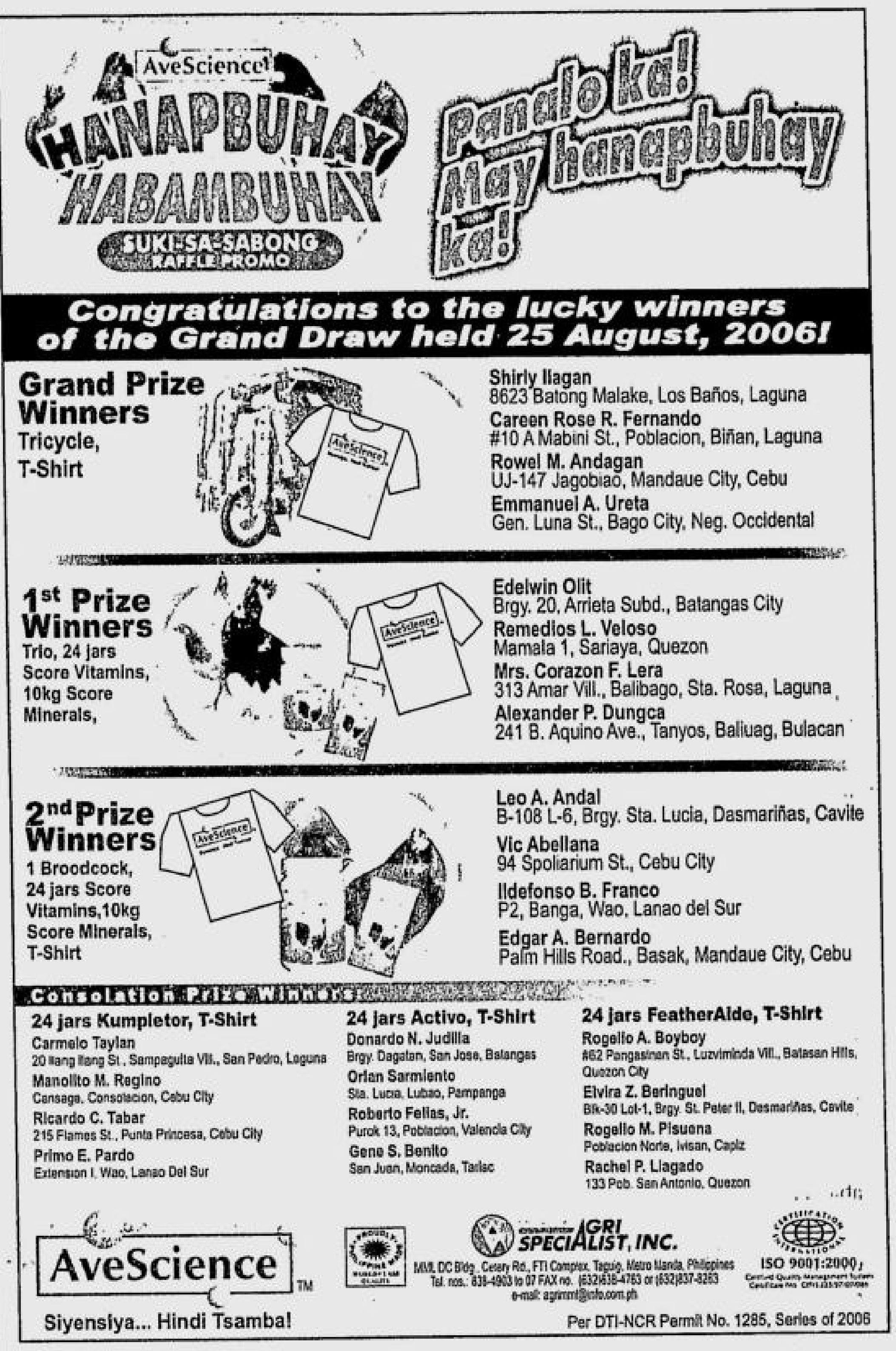
Once the scammers receive the money and prepaid load, the victims would no longer be able to get in touch with them again.

We repeat -- the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas does not conduct raffles.

WHAT TO DO

Report text scam incidents immediately to the following:

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING COUNCIL SECRETARIAT
5/F, EDPC Building, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, Manila
Tel: 302-3982 and 524-7011 local 2372
or
CORPORATE AFFAIRS OFFICE
BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS
BSP Complex, Mabini St. Manila
Tel: 523-4832 and 524-7011 local 2259



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Rowel M. Andagan
UJ-147 Jagobiao, Mandaue City, Cebu
Emmanuel A. Ureta
Gen. Luna St., Bago City, Neg. Occidental

1st Prize Winners
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Edelwin Olit
Brgy. 20, Arrieta Subd., Batangas City
Remedios L. Veloso
Mamala 1, Sariaya, Quezon
Mrs. Corazon F. Lera
313 Amar Vill., Balibago, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Alexander P. Dungca
241 B. Aquino Ave., Tanyos, Baliuag, Bulacan

2nd Prize Winners
1 Broodcock, 24 jars Score Vitamins, 10kg Score Minerals, T-Shirt

Leo A. Andal
B-108 L-6, Brgy. Sta. Lucia, Dasmariñas, Cavite
Vic Abellana
94 Spoliarium St., Cebu City
Ildefonso B. Franco
P2, Banga, Wao, Lanao del Sur
Edgar A. Bernardo
Palm Hills Road., Basak, Mandaue City, Cebu

Consolation Prize Winners

24 jars Kumpletor, T-Shirt
Carmelo Taylan
20 Ilang Ilang St., Sampaguita Vill., San Pedro, Laguna
Manolito M. Regino
Cansaga, Consolacion, Cebu City
Ricardo C. Tabar
215 Flames St., Punta Princesa, Cebu City
Primo E. Pardo
Extension I, Wao, Lanao Del Sur

24 jars Activo, T-Shirt
Donardo N. Judilla
Brgy. Dagatan, San Jose, Batangas
Orlan Sarmiento
Sta. Lucia, Lubao, Pampanga
Roberto Felias, Jr.
Purok 13, Poblacion, Valencia City
Gene S. Benito
San Juan, Moncada, Tarlac

24 jars FeatherAide, T-Shirt
Rogelio A. Boyboy
#62 Pangasinan St., Luzviminda Vill., Batasan Hills, Quezon City
Elvira Z. Beringuel
Blk-30 Lot-1, Brgy. St. Peter II, Dasmariñas, Cavite
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Poblacion Norte, Ivisan, Capiz
Rachel P. Llagado
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PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF ELIGIBLE BONDS ACCEPTED:	PhP 54bn
SIZE OF 10-YEAR BENCHMARK BOND:	PhP 58bn

The Final Clearing Yields for each series of the Eligible Bonds are as follows:

ISIN	Maturity Date	Coupon Rate	Final Clearing Yield	ISIN	Maturity Date	Coupon Rate	Final Clearing Yield	ISIN	Maturity Date	Coupon Rate	Final Clearing Yield
PIBD0707I292	21-Sep-07	14.50%	7.60%	PIBD0309B132	17-Feb-09	8.50%	8.09%	PIBD1010I236	01-Sep-10	14.625%	8.32%
PIBD0507J464	24-Oct-07	11.00%	7.63%	PIBD1009B084	25-Feb-09	16.50%	8.09%	PIID0510H043	08-Sep-10	10.625%	8.32%
PIBD0407K063	13-Nov-07	10.125%	7.65%	PIBD0509D536	08-Apr-09	11.875%	8.11%	PIBD0510I600	22-Sep-10	10.875%	8.33%
PIBD0307K109	18-Nov-07	11.375%	7.66%	PIBD0409E155	12-May-09	10.75%	8.13%	PIBD0510L615	01-Dec-10	9.375%	8.35%
PIBD1007K042	27-Nov-07	22.875%	7.67%	PIBD1009E090	27-May-09	14.625%	8.14%	PIBD1010L261	21-Dec-10	17.50%	8.35%
PIBD1007KT12	27-Nov-07	21.00%	7.67%	PIBD0309F143	15-Jun-09	10.375%	8.15%	PIBD1011A278	18-Jan-11	17.50%	8.36%
PIBD0707L305	14-Dec-07	17.25%	7.69%	PIBD0509F543	17-Jun-09	12.00%	8.10%	PIBD0711A354	22-Jan-11	11.00%	8.36%
PIBD0408A072	08-Jan-08	10.50%	7.71%	PIBD0409G162	14-Jul-09	10.875%	8.17%	PIBD0511C622	03-Mar-11	8.50%	8.40%
PIBD0508A470	23-Jan-08	10.75%	7.73%	PIID0509G037	16-Jul-09	11.75%	8.17%	PIBD0711D360	15-Apr-11	12.00%	8.40%
PIBD0708B313	08-Feb-08	16.00%	7.75%	PIBD0309G155	27-Jul-09	8.75%	8.15%	PIBD0511F638	22-Jun-11	10.625%	8.42%
PIBD0408B089	19-Feb-08	10.875%	7.76%	PIBD0409H170	04-Aug-09	10.50%	8.18%	PIBD0711G376	22-Jul-11	12.00%	8.42%
PIBD0308C115	10-Mar-08	10.50%	7.78%	PIBD0509H550	12-Aug-09	11.875%	8.19%	PIBD1011J288	11-Oct-11	16.50%	8.45%
PIBD0408D094	01-Apr-08	11.375%	7.80%	PIBD1009I103	02-Sep-09	15.00%	8.20%	PIBD1012D291	25-Apr-12	13.00%	8.51%
PIBD0208D946	06-Apr-08	6.50%	7.81%	PIB1009IA118	23-Sep-09	15.50%	8.21%	PIBD0712D395	28-Apr-12	11.50%	8.51%
PIBD0208E954	04-May-08	6.50%	7.84%	PIBD1009J120	14-Oct-09	15.125%	8.22%	PIBD0712H408	18-Aug-12	11.375%	8.54%
PIBD0508E494	05-May-08	11.625%	7.84%	PIBD0509J569	28-Oct-09	12.375%	8.22%	PIBD1012J302	17-Oct-12	12.125%	8.56%
PIBD1008E056	28-May-08	19.00%	7.87%	PIBD1009K137	25-Nov-09	15.00%	8.23%	PIBD0712K413	17-Nov-12	10.50%	8.57%
PIBD0308F121	02-Jun-08	9.75%	7.87%	PIBD1009L149	23-Dec-09	14.875%	8.24%	PIBD0713A421	05-Jan-13	9.00%	8.58%
PIID0508F021	01-Jul-08	10.375%	7.90%	PIBD0510A571	27-Jan-10	11.50%	8.25%	PIBD0713C438	03-Mar-13	8.75%	8.63%
PIBD0208G951	13-Jul-08	8.375%	7.91%	PIBD1010B153	03-Feb-10	14.75%	8.25%	PIBD1013C316	27-Mar-13	12.75%	8.61%
PIBD0508G508	24-Jul-08	9.875%	7.93%	PIBD1010C161	02-Mar-10	14.625%	8.26%	PIBD1013E320	15-May-13	11.75%	8.62%
PIBD0408G119	29-Jul-08	11.00%	7.93%	PID1010CA170	30-Mar-10	13.875%	8.27%	PIBD0713F446	29-Jun-13	9.625%	8.64%
PIBD0408H127	26-Aug-08	11.75%	7.96%	PIBD0510D589	07-Apr-10	11.50%	8.27%	PIBD1013J337	09-Oct-13	11.00%	8.67%
PIBD1008H062	27-Aug-08	20.00%	7.96%	PIBD0410D181	20-Apr-10	6.50%	8.28%	PIBD1014C341	25-Mar-14	12.375%	8.76%
PIBD0508J519	02-Oct-08	10.25%	7.99%	PIBD1010D188	27-Apr-10	13.875%	8.15%	PIBD1014G356	15-Jul-14	12.75%	8.82%
PIBD0408J134	21-Oct-08	11.875%	8.00%	PIBD0710E348	08-May-10	11.875%	8.28%	PIBD1015B367	24-Feb-15	12.375%	8.94%
PIBD0708K322	15-Nov-08	15.625%	8.01%	PIBD1010E196	25-May-10	14.25%	8.15%	PIBD1015H370	25-Aug-15	11.875%	9.03%
PIBD1008K077	26-Nov-08	18.00%	8.02%	PIBD1010F202	22-Jun-10	14.125%	8.30%	PIBD1015L384	15-Dec-15	10.125%	9.06%
PIBD1008KT29	26-Nov-08	17.80%	8.02%	PIBD1010G210	20-Jul-10	14.50%	8.31%	PIBD1016A393	12-Jan-16	9.25%	9.07%
PIBD0409A140	13-Jan-09	12.00%	8.05%	PIBD0510G595	21-Jul-10	10.75%	8.31%	PIBD1016C407	30-Mar-16	7.50%	9.09%
PIBD0509A520	15-Jan-09	10.75%	8.05%	PIBD1010H228	10-Aug-10	14.625%	8.31%	PIBD1016D416	27-Apr-16	7.00%	9.11%

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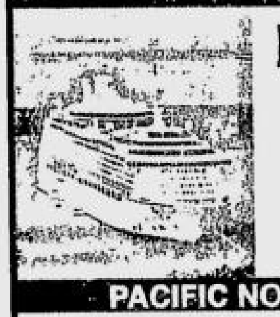
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Sailing Date: October 9, 2006 (4N SEATTLE RT)

Prices Starting From:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY/CRUISE
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OCEAN VIEW	$ 571.00	$1,521.00

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INSIDE CABIN	$ 980.00	$2,130.00
OCEAN VIEW	$1,230.00	$2,380.00

● **JEWEL OF THE SEAS** (RCI)
Sailing Date: October 21, 2006
(5N CANADA / NEW ENGLAND CRUISE)

Prices Starting From:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY/CRUISE
INSIDE CABIN	$ 550.00	$1,700.00
OCEAN VIEW	$ 650.00	$1,800.00
BALCONY	$ 860.00	$2,010.00

PANAMA CANAL

● **BRILLANCE OF THE SEAS** (RCI)
Sailing Date: November 20, 2006 (10N MIAMI TO MIAMI)

Prices Starting From:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY/CRUISE
INSIDE CABIN	$1,110.00	$2,210.00

BERMUDA

● **EXPLORER OF THE SEAS** (RCI)
Sailing Date: October 29, 2006
(5N NEW YORK ROUNDTRIP)

Prices Starting From:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY/CRUISE
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OCEAN VIEW	$ 600.00	$1,550.00
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Sailing Date: October 07, 2006
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OCEAN VIEW	$ 614.00	$1,564.00

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Prices Starting From:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY/CRUISE
INSIDE CABIN	$1,295.00	$2,245.00
OCEAN VIEW	$1,655.00	$2,605.00
BALCONY CABIN	$2,005.00	$2,955.00

● **VOYAGER OF THE SEAS** (BARCELONA RT)
Sailing Date: October 21, 2006 (7N MEDITERRANEAN)

Prices Starting From:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY/CRUISE
INSIDE CABIN	$1,084.00	$2,034.00
OCEAN VIEW	$1,464.00	$2,414.00

● **GALAXY** (CELEBRITY CRUISES)
Sailing Date: October 30, 2006
(11N EASTERN MEDITERRENEAN ROME RT)

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OCEAN VIEW	$1,995.00	$2,895.00
BALCONY CABIN	$2,855.00	$3,755.00

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OCEAN VIEW	$ 1,009.00	$2,109.00

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Sailing Date: October 15, 2006
(7N PORT CANAVERAL ROUNDTRIP)

Prices Starting From:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY/CRUISE
INSIDE CABIN	$ 440.00	$1,540.00
OCEAN VIEW	$ 520.00	$1,620.00
BALCONY CABIN	$1,010.00	$2,110.00

MEXICAN RIVIERA / BAJA MEXICO

● **VISION OF THE SEAS** (RCI)
Sailing Date: October 29, 2006
(7N LOS ANGELES ROUNDTRIP)

Prices Starting From:	CRUISE ONLY	FLY/CRUISE
INSIDE CABIN	$ 490.00	$1,290.00
OCEAN VIEW	$ 675.00	$1,475.00
BALCONY CABIN	$1,010.00	$1,810.00

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Sailing Date: October 23, 2006
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INSIDE CABIN	$ 170.00	$ 970.00
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GMA urged: Revoke Quezon forest deal

LUCENA CITY—PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS and a multisectoral forest protection council urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to revoke a controversial government forest management contract covering 34,660 hectares of land in the Sierra Madre mountain ranges.

Board Member Eladio Pasamba last week questioned Malacañang's lack of basis to reinstate the license granted to Timberland Forest Products Inc. (TFPI), owned by Bulacan-based logger Wilson Ng, for its Integrated Forest Management Agreement (Ifma).

Pasamba noted that after the revocation of the Ifma by then Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun on Jan. 13, 2004 due to alleged anomaly in the approval process, nothing had substantially changed in the TFPI as shown by the company's record in the Securities and Exchange Commission.

He presented a certified copy from the SEC stating that TFPI failed to file the required company general information sheet for 2003 up to 2006.

The firm also failed to submit financial statements for 2002 up to 2005, based on the same SEC certification.

Pasamba noted that TFPI had a paid-up capital of only P250,000.

Johnny Glorioso, chair of the Provincial Multisectoral Forest Protection Council's committee on information, appealed to the provincial board to ask Malacañang to reconsider its decision and revoke the contract granted to TFPI.

"Cutting trees in the Sierra Madre, whether legal or illegal, is tantamount to the desecration of the memories of thousands of people who died in the last tragedy. It seems that our government never really learned (its lessons from that experience)," Glorioso said.

Logging has been identified as among the key causes of natural disasters that struck the Sierra Madre area in 2004.

In an earlier interview, Ng appealed to his critics to cast away prejudices and give his company a chance to be part of the government's reforestation program.

"We also care for the Sierra Madre. Give my company a chance to prove its sincerity. We are not loggers who irresponsibly cut trees, we're also tree planters," Ng said in a phone interview.

He said he was already maintaining an eight-hectare nursery with 296,000 tree seedlings of different varieties in the mountain village of Canaway in General Nakar town long before the killer flash floods and landslides struck northern Quezon in late 2004.

"I have a certification from the DENR as proof. Anyone can inspect the place for his satisfaction," he stressed.

He said that after the calamity, the only area that had remained undisturbed by soil erosion was the perimeter of the nursery site.

According to Ng, that incident has pushed him to appeal his case to Malacañang.

"Our forest management contract with the government is primarily focused on planting and not merely on cutting of trees. The trees that we will be allowed to cut are only those mature, overmature and defective trees as spelled out in the document," Ng explained. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

YUMMY FOR SASHIMI JOAN BONDOC
Mayor Jerry Pelayo of Candaba, Pampanga, shows a three-kilogram *tilapia*, which, he says, is best for fillet and sashimi.

Mayon still shows erratic behavior

LEGAZPI CITY—FEWER VOLCANIC earthquakes and a decrease in sulfur dioxide emission rate during the past 24 hours did not necessarily mean a decline in the activity of Mayon volcano as sudden changes in its behavior really happen from time to time, volcanologists said yesterday.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) recorded nine volcanic earthquakes compared to the previous day's 31, while sulfur dioxide emission rate was 2,021 tons per day compared to the previous 6,585.

Tremor episodes remained high and indicated the continuous flow of glowing lava and detaching lava blocks from the main lava flow.

These were observed rolling and cascading towards the southeast sector of the volcano, Phivolcs said.

Alert level 4 has remained hoisted as the probability of explosion was still high, it added. *Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

DENR seeks cancellation of Davao firm's tree plantation contract

DAVAO CITY—THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIronment and Natural Resources has recommended the immediate cancellation of an Industrial Tree Plantation Lease Agreement (ITPLA) claimed by Carmen Hills Corp. in a protected area in Barangay Tawan-Tawan in Baguio District here.

In a letter sent to Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, the DENR regional office said ITPLA No. 208, which was supposedly issued to Carmen Hills, was nonexistent.

"Query on the authenticity of the status/validity thereof to the Administrative Services (of the DENR national office) disclosed that such document is not existing as per memorandum dated Oct. 7, 1988," said acting Environment Regional Director Ricardo Calderon.

Because of this, Calderon said, he was recommending the immediate cancellation of the ITPLA.

Carmen Hills claimed that it was able to obtain a permit to plant and harvest trees in the area on Feb. 10, 1986, which will expire on Oct. 31, 2010. But for the last few years, the company failed to conduct any activity in the area.

The DENR found that the company instead developed a 3.5-hectare falcatta plantation outside the ITPLA coverage.

A technical conference was convened to discuss and verify the validity of the ITPLA in April. Calderon said the technical committee required the company to submit original copies of the approved ITPLA, its shares of stocks, and Securities and Exchange Commission registration.

Calderon said the company was also given the chance to explain why the ITPLA should not be cancelled despite its failure to submit an accomplishment report and why it operated outside the coverage area without the consent of the DENR.

"To this date, Carmen Hills has not submitted the documents required by the technical committee and the legal division of this office," Calderon said.

The DENR decision came following the clamor of residents of Tawan-Tawan to stop the entry of the company, which, they said, threatened their livelihood and could lead to their dislocation and to destruction of the environment.

The ITPLA is said to cover 1,000 hectares of land now being tilled and inhabited by hundreds of families of *lumad* (indigenous peoples) in the village.

The barangay council and the tribal council have passed separate resolutions urging the DENR of cancel the ITPLA. *Jeffrey M. Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao*

Yaranon's last act is to buy land for Baguio

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—SUSPENDED MAYOR Braulio Yaranon's last action before he left office last week was to initiate the purchase of lands outside Baguio to build an extension of the residential and business communities of the city.

Yaranon earlier told city employees that buying new land or "land banking" affords the city the opportunity to offer migrants better housing areas that they can no longer find within the city's territory.

By focusing its resources on the development of city-owned subdivisions outside Baguio, Yaranon said the local government could design more habitable villages.

Villages in the city are a mix of narrow roads built by the Americans and a web of disconnected sewage and drainage systems.

Yaranon said he wanted to tap locally financed treasury bonds to buy these lands now that the local government is confronting problems on squatting and land titling.

But he would no longer be able to serve the rest of his term because Malacañang slapped him with two consecutive six-month suspensions that would end in June next year.

YARANON INQUIRER PHOTO

Loud applause and cheers greeted the 78-year-old Yaranon when he graced the city's 97th charter day ceremonies and parade on Friday.

Baguio was officially recognized as a city in 1909 by the American colonial government but the town designed by American architect Daniel Burnham was meant for a population of 20,000 residents and not the 287,756 residents recorded in 2005, according to local urban planners.

However, Baguio continues to be "an in-migration city" (a government label for the city's high migration rate) in spite the local government's inability to support the volume of people who decide to stay permanently, said Colleen Lacsamana, an urban planning expert here.

The rapid increase in migrants from Metro Manila, Mindanao and lately, transients from South Korea, is merely the contemporary phase of a 90-year-old trend, Lacsamana said.

Koreans come to the summer capital to study English for six months, but many of them have started setting up businesses here to service their compatriots, said Ryu Husky, owner of an English language school here.

Over 5,000 migrants from Mindanao have also made the city their home.

Baguio police chief Senior Supt. Isagani Nerez said the influx of migrants compelled him to develop workshops for policemen to allow them to understand new migrant cultures.

Yaranon's decision to enter into "land banking" revives a metropolitan development plan designed for the city and four Benguet towns by urban planner Joseph Alabanza.

Alabanza, a former Cordillera director of the National Economic and Development Authority, proposed a five-town metropolis in the aftermath of the July 16, 1990 earthquake.

He pursued the same concept, which he called BLIST (for Baguio and the Benguet towns of La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan and Tuba), when he served as presidential adviser on urban affairs during the term of former President Fidel Ramos.

BLIST conceived Sablan and Tuba to host the city's new suburban communities, while Baguio's investments for high industries would be farmed out to Itogon, a former mining town, and La Trinidad, where Benguet's vegetable trading post is located.

Lacsamana said officials and residents of the BLIST towns resisted the concept because it was imposed on them, so urban planners are now redesigning BLIST based on the towns' own proposals.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ACCREDITATION AND SELL THE BCDA-HELD INVENTORIES OF THE HERITAGE PARK INVESTMENT CERTIFICATES

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) intends to dispose of its inventories of the Heritage Park Investment Certificates (HPICs) for the various types of memorial products in the Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. In this regard, BCDA is inviting interested brokers, either individuals or firms, to apply for accreditation and to sell the BCDA-held inventories of HPICs from August 28 to September 25, 2006.

To be accredited by BCDA, the broker, if a firm, must be a duly registered and existing corporation in the Philippines who is in the business of selling real estate. If an individual, such broker must have a valid broker's license.

Interested brokers may submit their Letters of Intent (LOI) to BCDA along with the certified true copies of the following documents:

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3. Business Permits/License issued by the local government; and
4. tax clearance from the BIR and the local government.

Interested brokers may direct their inquiries to Ms. Bambie L. Andal and/or Ms. Mae G. Celestino at telephone nos. 816-6666 local 124, 125 and 178. Inquiries via electronic mail may also be sent to blandal@bcda.gov.ph and/or mdclestino@bcda.gov.ph. Our office address is at:

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GEN. NARCISO L. ABAYA (Ret.)
President and Chief Executive Officer

(PDI—Aug. 28, Sept. 4 & 11, 2006)

Proclamation 1017: Policy matrix of slaughter

From page A1

between 5 percent and nearly 6 percent), not respectable enough to crow about, compared to the new Asian miracle economies of China and India.

The administration is trying mightily to catch up with opportunities it lost in its first term and the first half of its second term. It has been crippled by the legitimacy crisis over alleged cheating in the 2004 presidential election, as revealed in the "Hello Garci" tapes.

It is trying to reinvent itself in the next three years with a fast-track agenda and I am afraid that it has little time left to accomplish the crash programs outlined in the first paragraph.

This agenda is crushing enough for an administration with a massive electoral mandate and that enjoys broad public confidence. For a crippled administration, a miracle is needed to accomplish these aims.

The administration's biggest enemy and obstacle is time—and itself. It is racing against time and it is caught in policy contradictions that create conflict and more enemies for itself, and that hamper all its political and economic initiatives.

Checklist of results

A checklist of results of what the administration has been good at in its deadlines shows that it has achieved outstanding success in killing the second impeachment complaint with stunning swiftness. Bravo for that.

On the counterinsurgency front, the efficiency for ending the slaughter of the noncombatants does not show. The objective of ending the communist insurgency in two years is tied to the killings of the leftists and journalists. They are the two sides of the same coin.

The campaign on this sector has stumbled because of wrong policy assumptions. The military, police and justice department are inhibited from bringing the first case against the invisible death squads by the fact that they are looking for culprits in the wrong direction.

They had, even before they could start their jobs, already concluded they had to hunt for the killers in the ranks of the leftists.

They have put blinders on their eyes, shutting them from searching their own ranks, which are the main suspects of human rights organizations, such as Amnesty International.

PNP Director General Oscar Calderon has already claimed that Task Force Usig "has been doing its job well," even though it has only begun to hand over to the Melo Commission documents that might help it in its inquiry into the killings. And yet the record shows Usig has only produced one case out of the killing of 247 leftists and 27 journalists since 2001.

1017 set policy direction

The direction into which the military, police and the justice department is looking is driven by the policy matrix defined by Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 declaring a state of national emergency in February.

The proclamation was justified by the presidential national security theory that the exercise of emergency powers was required to crush a conspiracy of military rightists and leftists, abetted by an "irresponsible" sector of the press.

This matrix defined the military and police action in ending the insurgency within the next three years and the killings. It set the tone and direction of their actions.

It was echoed by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez who said the killings were a consequence of "collateral damage" (or casualties) in the course of the "all-out war" on the communist insurgency.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales wedged in the media in this conspiracy theory by saying that they were something like accessories to the plot, for allegedly being infiltrated by the leftists and giving publicity to their point of view, although this is a smear, because the real reason is that the administration cannot tolerate a critical press.

Having set the targets of the counterinsurgency campaign, this conspiracy matrix became the state's security ideology which was dutifully implemented by Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan (with gusto) in his communist hunt in Central Luzon, Mindoro and Samar and echoed by Gonzalez and Gonzales (in his communist witch-hunt in the media).

Rebel-free super regions

The President has given the military a deadline to clear the super regions of insurgents to set the stage for a fast-tracked economic transformation.

The super regions scheme, the ending of the killings, and the crushing of the communist insurgency are closely linked.

They stand on a fragile national security strategy and policy matrix spelled out by PP 1017.

The matrix singles out the Left as the main enemy of the state, with the military rightists taking second place, although they are more of a threat and more dangerous because they are armed.

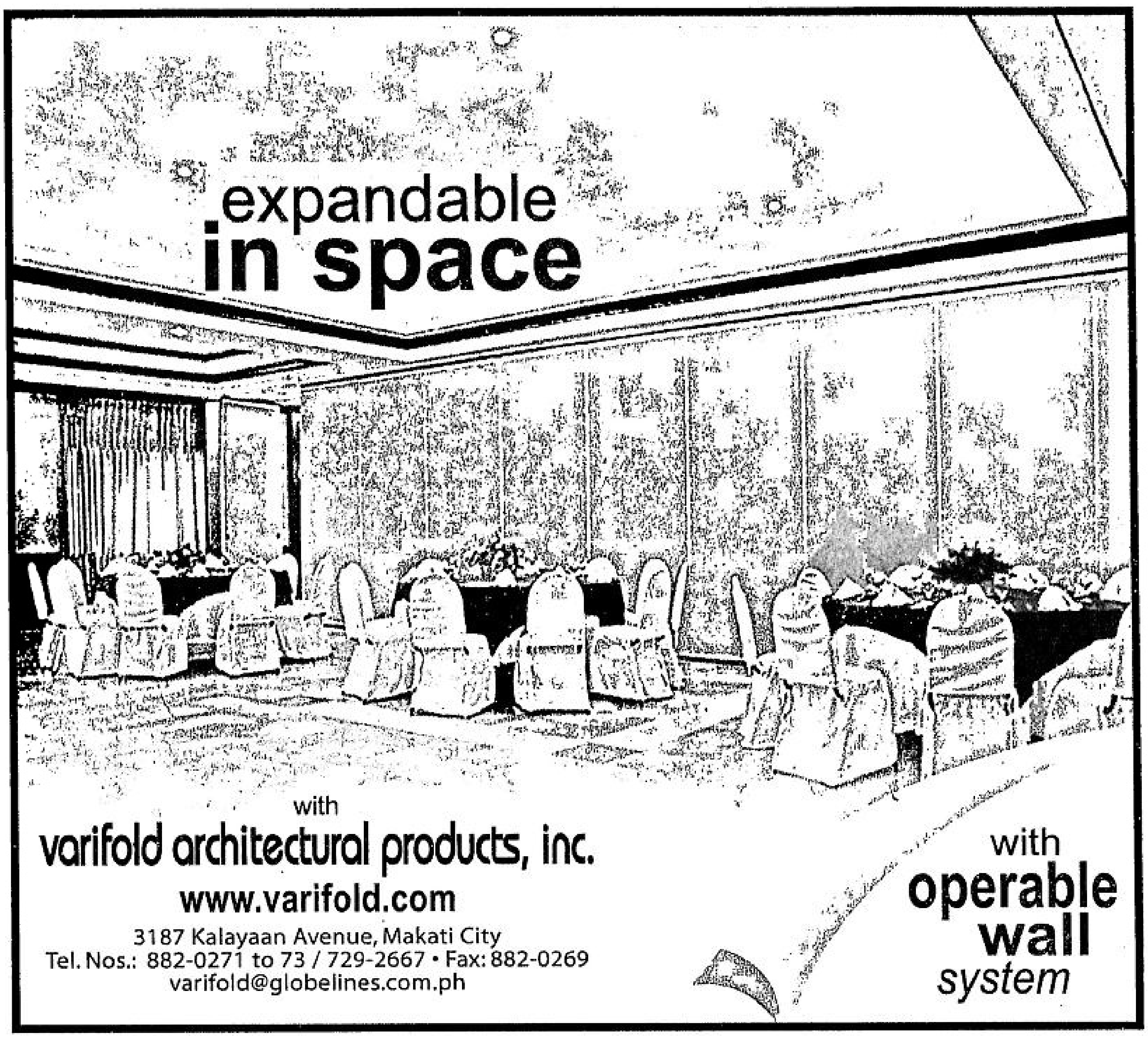
How can you set the military against its own men without causing civil war?

This conspiracy thesis of PP 1017 is wrong identification of the regime's enemies. This matrix triggers a witch-hunt that looks for scapegoats, instead of solutions, in already designated sectors. It deflects the search from other possible sources of the wave of death squad killings.

This matrix is overburdened and thinly stretched out. It bears the superstructure of the three projects of crushing the insurgency, ending the killings and economic transformation.

Since the assumptions of this policy matrix are wrong, these projects are bound to crash in a big bang.

By 2006, we'll end up with more corpses of collateral victims.



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All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	28 August – 14 September 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	15 September 2006, 2:00 P.M.
3. Opening of Bids	3 October 2006, 2:00 P.M.
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. 9184 dated 10 January 2003
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,400.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

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(PDI – September 4, 2006)

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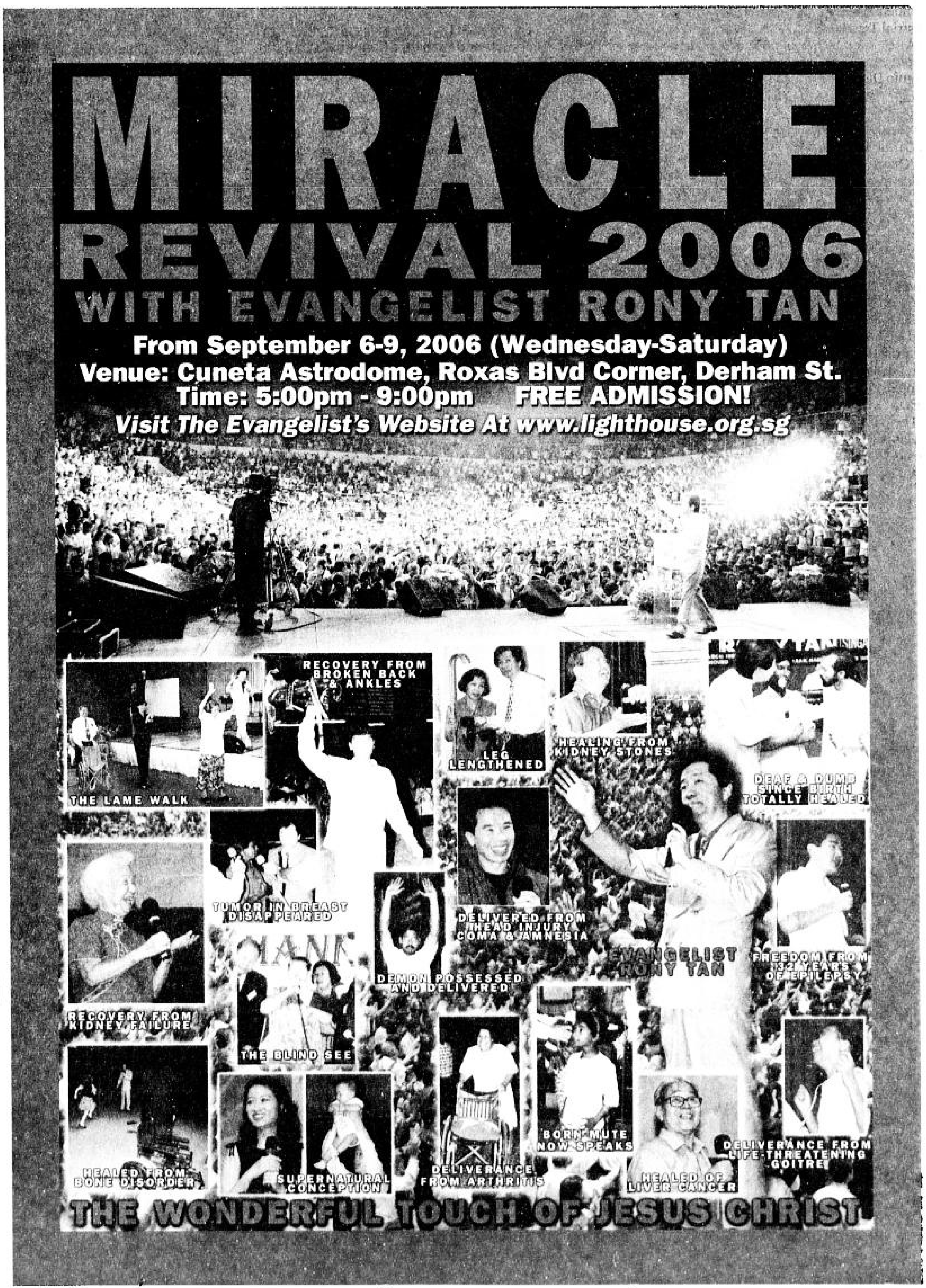

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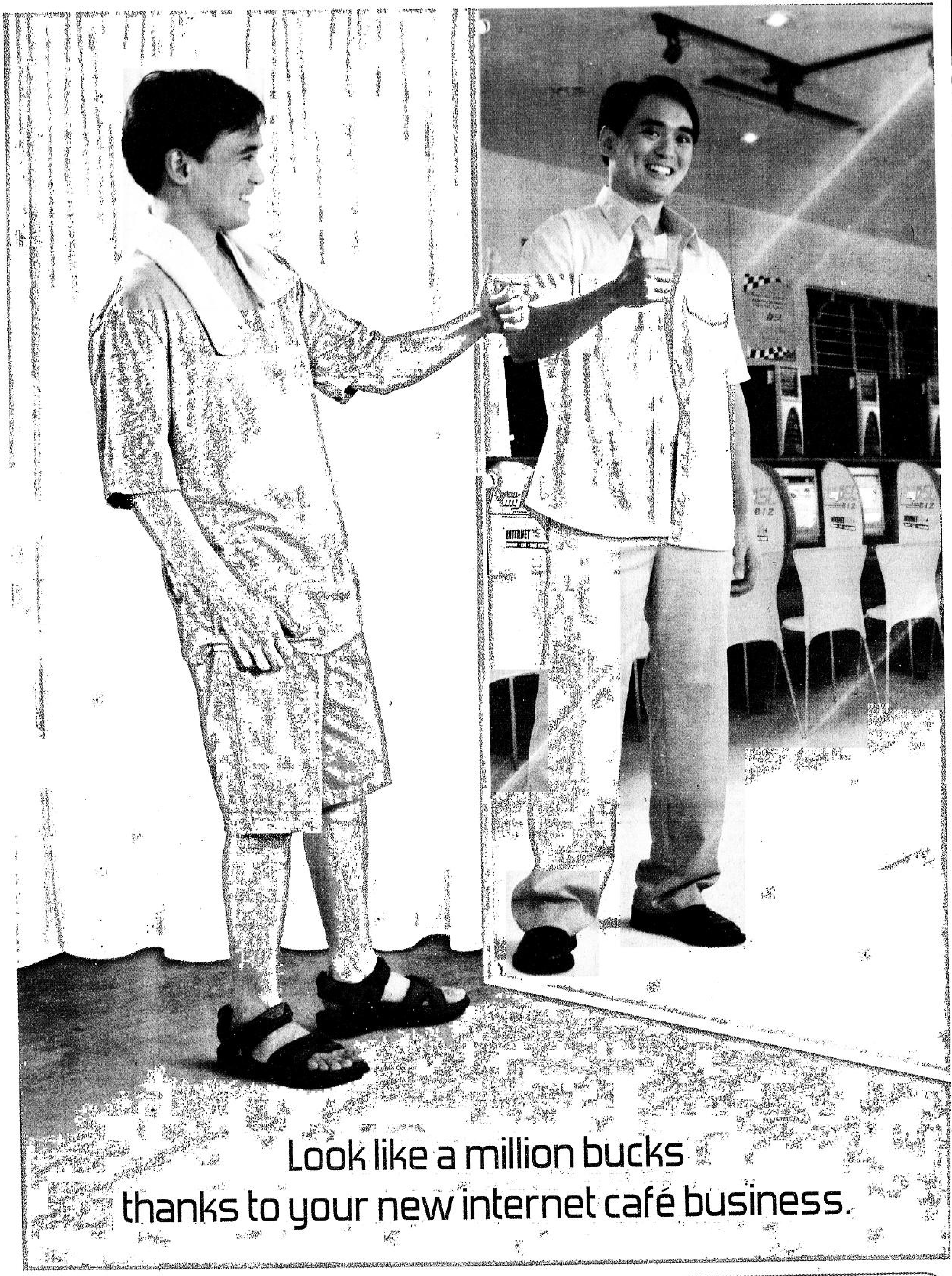
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Suspended Pasay officials hang tough

Trinidad vows to lead today's flag-raising ceremony at City Hall

WHAT BIG FEET YOU HAVE

A girl plays hide and seek beside a gigantic pair of shoes in Barangay Barangka, Marikina City. JOAN BONDOC

By Tarra V. Quismundo

EMBOLDENED BY THE SUPPORT coming from his constituents, Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad yesterday said he would begin the workweek the same way he has been doing it since he assumed his post: By leading today's flag-raising ceremony at City Hall.

"It should be business as usual because we haven't received a copy of the suspension order. So we can't afford to abandon our posts or else, our political opponents will accuse us of being remiss in our duties," he added.

Trinidad, Vice Mayor Antonio Calixto and 10 city councilors were ordered suspended for 60 days by the Ombudsman last Friday for allegedly entering into questionable contracts for garbage collection and disposal in 2004 and 2005.

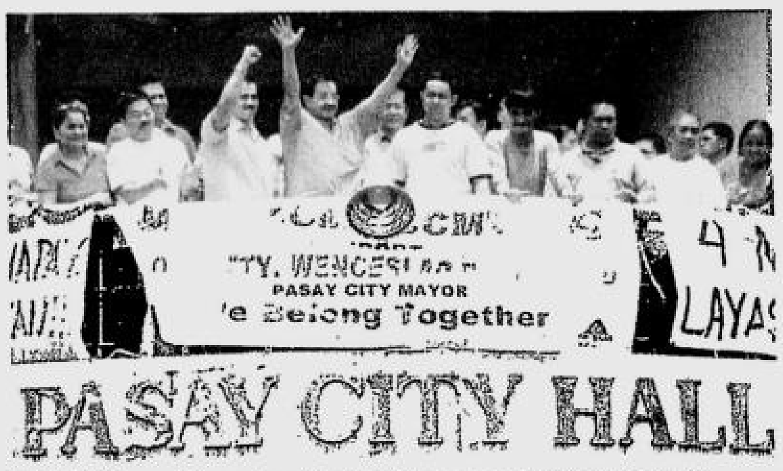
Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said the other day that he was still waiting for a copy of the Ombudsman's order.

"Any order will be received by our legal division which will forward the implementing documents to me. I am obligated to comply with and implement all legal directives," Puno added.

Since the order was handed down Friday, Trinidad and the 11 other officials have been holed up at City Hall, with their supporters holding nightly vigils.

According to the mayor, around 1,500 of their followers were gathered at City Hall yesterday. The police, however, estimated the crowd at 700.

Trinidad the other day claimed that Pasay Rep. Connie Dy, who was reportedly planning to run for mayor next year, was behind the whole thing. "This is a desperate move in view of the upcoming elections," the mayor, who is up for reelection, said.



PASAY Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad (in orange shirt) waves to his supporters from a balcony at City Hall. He and the other suspended officials have not left the building since Friday night. RYAN LIM.

When asked what he intended to do, the mayor said, "When I see the order from the Ombudsman, I will look at it and then consult my lawyer."

He added, "We will not cause trouble here, unless they (rivals) cause us trouble. Everything is peaceful here. I find it comfortable here among friends. I cannot go home because the people are here … I will wait for them to go home before I do."

Over 12,000 lights to brighten up Quezon City

By DJ Yap

OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS, more than 12,000 streetlights will be installed on major roads and thoroughfares in Quezon City in a bid to keep the city's streets safe from crime.

Of the total, 4,495 streetlights shall be put up this year, consisting of 1,935 pole-mounted streetlights and 2,560 ornamental ones, according to city officials.

A study has revealed that Quezon City's road networks, measured at 25-meter intervals, need at least 80,140 streetlights for maximum coverage. To date, the city only has 39,770 streetlights.

The road network of District 2, the most densely populated area, measures 1,076.49 km, meaning it requires 43,060 streetlights, the biggest requirement among the four districts.

The project is expected to increase Quezon City's "illumination coverage" from 49.63 percent to 60 percent.

Aside from the installation of the new streetlights, the city is undertaking the repair and maintenance of existing streetlights for the next three years, said city administrator Paquito Ochoa.

Some 3,702 streetlights are scheduled for repair during that period, he added, saying that the repair work alone would cost P10.4 million.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said the streetlighting project would be "a very important deterrent" against criminality.

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Golden girls club pushes for gray power

Senior moments need not be lonely exercises in nostalgia

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TAKE A BATH EVERYDAY AND DAB DROPS OF moisturizer on your arms and legs. Comb your hair neatly into place. Don't forget to apply powder on your face.

Remember, being old should never be an excuse to stop looking good.

Take it from Dr. Erlinda Garcia who never tires of giving these reminders to members of the Philippine United Senior Citizens' Association (Pusca), which she now heads.

"We should erase the stereotype that old people are *amoy lupa* (smelly)," she would tell her members at the start of their weekly meetings in Quezon City.

During one of their meetings, she had good news for members of the club: They can now avail of haircuts or facial treatments at a discount in any branch of hair stylist Ricky Reyes' chain of beauty salons.

Pusca and several organizations of senior citizens in Metro Manila recently merged under an informal umbrella group headed by Reyes.

Called the "Goldies Club," Reyes formed the group last year but relaunched it last month to help the elderly, many of whom he said wallow in self-pity after realizing that they no longer have the final say on household matters.

"Senior citizens get irritated easily. They always feel lonely because they are not the queens (and kings) of their homes anymore," he explained.

To help them feel better, Reyes distributed yellow cards to Goldies Club members which would entitle them to a discount whenever they visit his salon.

"To feel good, they also have to look good," said the hair stylist who is very close to his mother, Amada, now 87 years old.

Garcia has also been devoting her time to taking care of older people, being a volunteer for Pusca, which civic leader Luz Gonzales founded in 1994.

Though she does not hold a senior citizen card yet at age 58, Garcia knows what older people go through. "They begin to lose their self-esteem and feel useless," she said.

But in little but sure ways, her organization and the new umbrella club to which it belongs are trying to change this feeling of worthlessness.

For one, Pusca has been organizing livelihood seminars for its members.

The Mandaluyong Federation of Senior Citizens Associations has also been holding beauty pageants and ballroom dancing sessions for older people, according to Elvira Vicencio, who heads the group. And under the law, senior citizens get a 20 percent discount on products and services.

But these are not the only reasons why more and more elderly people are joining their groups, Vicencio is quick to say. "They join our group to be happy," she adds.

From offering discounts to holding fashion shows, from teaching members new skills or just offering them company, these organizations are touching the lives of those who may otherwise feel already too tired to live.

Garcia puts their groups' mission this way: "We just want to make the remaining times of our lives happy."

HAIR guru Ricky Reyes (left) during a meeting with members of the Goldies Club. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Makati police chief cleared of dishonesty raps

By Tarra V. Quismundo

INTERIOR SECRETARY RONALDO PUNO HAS overturned a National Police Commission (Napolcom) decision demoting the officer in charge of the Makati Police Station (MPS) for dishonesty due to lack of evidence.

"The appeal is hereby granted and the assailed decisions of the Napolcom National Appellate Board (NAB) and Chief, PNP (Philippine National Police), are hereby set aside. Effective immediately, Supt. Felipe Napoles Jr. is hereby reinstated to his former rank," said the decision issued Friday and signed by Puno who also chairs the Napolcom.

The NAB had ordered Napoles' demotion to chief inspector last July, based on the recommendation of the PNP which found him guilty of possessing and using a stolen van in 1999.

Puno, however, said that possession of a recovered stolen vehicle does not constitute dishonesty but "perhaps may fall under another administrative infraction ..."

"If the heart and soul of the administrative charge is the mere possession of a stolen vehicle, the charge of dishonesty cannot be made to prosper in the absence of any evidence correlating that his acquisition and possession of the vehicle was obtained through acts of dishonesty," he added.

Napoles said Puno's decision could pave the way for his appointment as acting Makati police chief.

"I have been totally exonerated of the charges ... I have been hearing from the higher-ups that I am going to be appointed as acting police chief and my rank should be commensurate to the position," he told the INQUIRER yesterday.

A demotion would have disqualified Napoles from being appointed acting or permanent police chief as the position can only be assigned to police officers with the rank of superintendent or higher.

An acting police chief, compared to an officer in charge (OIC), has more functions and wider administrative powers, he added.

Napoles has been the OIC of the Makati Police Station since July, after Senior Supt. Marietto Valerio suddenly went on emergency leave. Valerio has since been assigned as OIC of the Pasay Police Station.

METROBRIEFS

Sin's birthday celebrated

RESIDENTS of Punta, Sta. Ana Manila, particularly those living in Cardinal Sin Village, celebrated the other day the birth anniversary of one of the major players in the country's two people power revolts by having their pets blessed. "This is to show our desire to live decently not only for people but also for animals," said Father Mark Munda, who led the blessing of the animals. He added that the event was part of the three-day celebration of Jaime Cardinal Sin's 78th birthday on Aug. 31. Before his death, Sin made the two-ha Cardinal Sin Village his second home. He built the village for some 500 residents of Punta, one of the poorest communities in the city, soon after his retirement as archbishop of Manila in 2003.

Tina G. Santos

Proposal writing seminar

FOR PROJECTS that need grant or donor support, join the winning grant proposal writing seminar on Sept. 14. Learn from the experts how winning grant proposals are crafted. Best practices, tips, trends, techniques and samples of approved proposals will be discussed during the seminar. Speakers include Dr. Ronald Meinardus, resident representative, Friedrich Naumann Foundation Philippines; Ma. Divina de Leon, social development manger, Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc., and Tritium Knowledge Center Publishing. The seminar will be held in Richville Hotel at 286 Edsa, Mandaluyong City, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For inquiries, call TKCP at 5310084, 0919-2299777, 0919-2299780 and 0915-7804379 or e-mail tritium@pldtdsl.net or tkcp_ph@yahoo.com.

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In 1958, Baclaran Church was declared the National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. In December of that year, the new church—which can seat only 2,000 but can accommodate 9,000—was consecrated by Manila Archbishop Rufino Cardinal Santos

The church is always open to the public. Every Wednesday, about 120,000 devotees go to Baclaran, starting at 4 a.m. until past midnight.

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- Step by step guide to the BIR audit

MODULE 2 – 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Ins and outs of the Run After Tax Evaders program
- Know your rights and remedies
- Tips in handling tax assessments issues

The fee is P11,200 per participant for both modules, or P6,720 per participant for one module. The seminar fee includes refreshments, lunch for whole day participants, comprehensive manual of materials, and a certificate of participation. CPE credits will be given to CPAs. For those registering in the seminar, please accomplish the form below and fax to 891-0429 or 819-0872, Attention Ms. Mylene R. Del Mundo

For more information, contact Ms. Mylene Del Mundo (Mylene R.Del Mundo@ph.ey.com) at telephone number 8910307 local 7253 or Ms. Babes Capul (Estrella A.Capul@ph.ey.com) at telephone number 8910307 local 7254 or visit www.sgv.com.ph

Payment: Check payments shall be made payable to "SGV & Co. – How To Survive Your BIR Audit Seminar" and delivered to the Cashier at the 3F, SGV 1 Building, 6760 Ayala Avenue, Makati City before the September 8, 2006

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Obesity a deadly global epidemic, experts say

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—THE world is in the grip of a fat pandemic that threatens to overwhelm every country's health system with diseases such as diabetes and heart disease and shorten the life span of future generations, experts at an international conference warned on Sunday.

"Obesity is an international scourge," Prof. Paul Zimmet, the chair of the meeting of more than 2,500 experts and health officials, told delegates in a speech opening the International Congress on Obesity. "This insidious, creeping pandemic of obesity is now engulfing the entire world."

"It's as big a threat as global warming and bird flu," said Zimmet, an Australian expert on diabetes.

Other experts at the conference said the cost of treating health problems related to being overweight was immeasurable on a global scale, but was estimated at billions of dollars a year in countries such as Australia, Britain and the United States.

"We are not dealing with a scientific or medical problem, we're dealing with an enormous economic problem that, it is already accepted, is going to overwhelm every medical system in the world," said Prof. Philip James, the chair of a global task force set up by medical organizations that deal with weight-related problems.

He said governments had been forced to confront rising obesity rates because of the expense of treating related health issues.

Among the most worrying problems is skyrocketing rates of obesity among children, which made them much more prone to chronic diseases as they grow older and could shave years of their lives, experts said.

The children in this generation may be the first in history to die before their parents because of health problems related to weight, Prof. Kate Steinbeck, an expert in children's health at Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, said in a statement.

The World Health Organization says more than one billion adults around the world are overweight and 300 million of them are obese, putting them at much higher risk of diseases such as diabetes, heart problems, high blood pressure, stroke and some forms of cancer.

There are now more overweight people in the world than people who are undernourished, who number about 600 million, Zimmet said.

People in wealthy countries were leading the world in overeating and not doing enough physical activity, but those in developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America were fast learning the bad habits, delegates said.

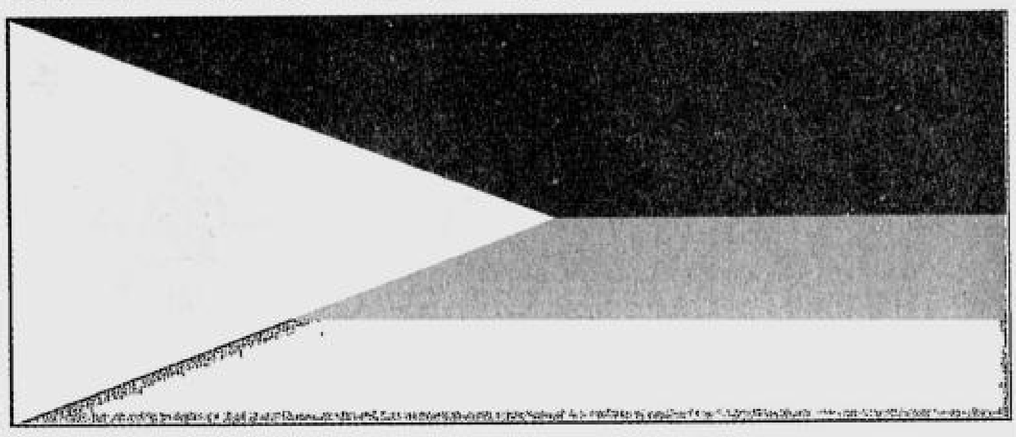
But the traditional way of dealing with the issue—focusing on getting individuals to adjust their diet and exercise—had failed, and a more multifaceted response involving governments, business and community groups is needed, they said.

Experts also said governments should impose bans on junk food advertising aimed directly at children, although they acknowledged such restrictions were unlikely to come about soon because the food industry would lobby hard against them.

One in four children in Australia is overweight or obese, said Steinbeck. Half of Australia's adult women are overweight, and two thirds of men, she said. The rates were among the highest in the world, with the United States worse, she said.

Modern life has created an environment that is counterproductive to staying a healthy weight, experts said, including neighborhoods that were increasingly being built with not enough public space for residents to exercise, said Prof. Louise Baur, a child health expert at the University of Sydney. *AP*

TWENTY-SIX-year-old Liang Yong, who weighed 220 kg at his heaviest, carries his child in a basket in China's Chongqing municipality, in this April 17 photo. AP



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Speakers: Bishop Dominique Bierman, Jerusalem, Israel; **Rabbi Baruch Bierman**, Jerusalem, Israel; **Rev. Richard Muñoz**, Mission Possible, Mizion Jerusalem. Naples Florida USA; **Rev. Alfred Merejilla**, Project John 10:10 ' 10 CAM; **Ptr. Basilio "Val" Ferrer**, Gising Kabataan, **Grace Gupana**, PG Tower Ministries, Philippines, **Rev. Jerome Ocampo**, Jesus Revolution. **The conference is open to everyone, first come first served basis. No registration fee.**

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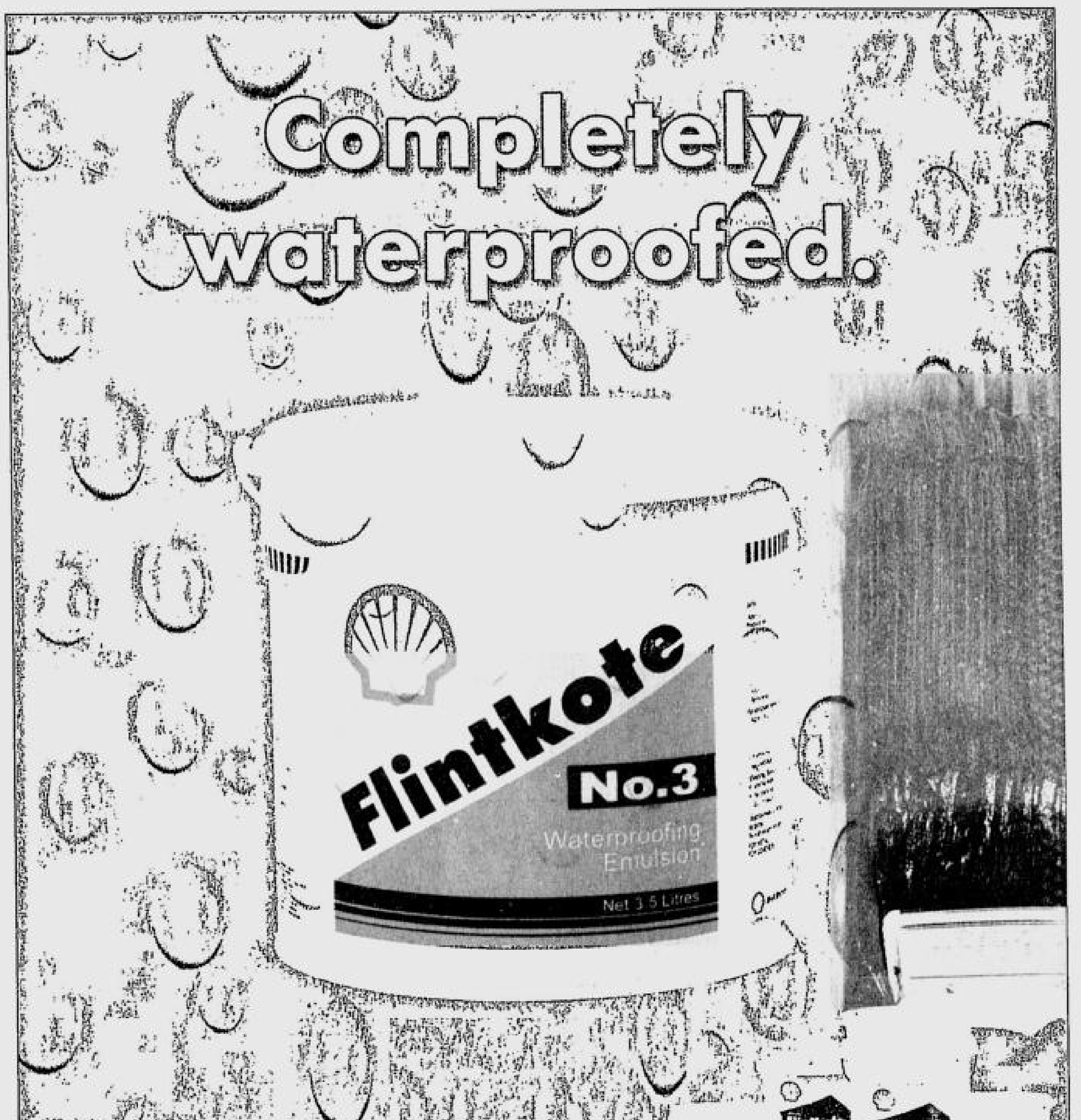

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COOKING / PRODUCT PRESENTATION
Exhibition Hall - Activity Area

SEPTEMBER 6 – Wednesday
11:00 AM TRENDS, RECIPES, TECHNIQUES
By Chef Jun Jun De Guzman, Chef Dorothy Ferrena, Chef Joey Prats
SEPTEMBER 7 – Thursday
11:00 AM NEW DEL MONTE PARTY DRINKS, SHAKE, POUR & SERVED
By Ms. Angie Castillo
1:00 PM WILTON CAKE DECORATION
By Ms. Susan San Miguel
2:30 PM EXPERIENCE THE FREEDOM TO INNOVATE AS EQUILIBRIUM INTERTRADE LAUNCHES THE NEW TORANI PURE FLAVORS
4:00 PM I. CAKES & TORTE VARIATIONS USING CHIFFON & BUTTER-BASE CAKES
II. EL REAL HOLIDAY PASTA DISHES
By Chef Dennis Hipolito
SEPTEMBER 8 – Friday
11:00 AM ALL ABOUT CHOCOLATE
By Ms Dorothy Ferrena
FLOWER MAKING
By Ms Avelina Florendo of CCS Bakeshop & School
1:00 PM DONUT & CORNDOG FACTORY CART BUSINESS
By Ed Franco
2:30 PM COOKING DEMO
By Sysu International
4:00 PM EXOTIC ASIA. FOOD OF THE GODS - A FIERY QUEST INTO THE MAGIC FLAVORS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA
By Chef Jundy Gueco
SEPTEMBER 9 – Saturday
11:00 AM CHEF MEETS THE BAKER
By Ms Heny Sison & Chef Gene Gonzales

TECHNICAL SEMINAR / PRODUCT PRESENTATION
Seminar Room 1 & 2

SEPTEMBER 6 – Wednesday
2:30 PM DEVELOPING YOUR OWN SPECIALTY FOOD - BEVERAGE SAUCES, YOGURTS, DIPS ETC *(Sem Rm 1)*
4:00 PM STEAM ACCESSORIES FOR ENERGY SAVINGS *(Sem. Rm 1)*
SEPTEMBER 7 – Thursday
10:30 AM DIODE ARRAY 7200 EXPRESS LAB NIR ANALYZER, A NEW AND SMART TECHNIQUE *(Sem Rm 1)*
1:00 PM LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN MODIFIED STARCHES FOR USE IN MEAT AND BAKERY *(Sem Rm 1)*
2:30 PM INDUSTRIAL CLEANING SOLUTIONS FOR THE FOOD INDUSTRY *(Sem Rm 1)*
4:00 PM SOURCING EQUIPMENT FROM CHINA *(Seminar Rm 1)*
4:00 PM I. NEW EUROPEAN FOOD DIRECTIVES IN 2006 & IMPLICATIONS TO ASIAN FOOD EXPORTERS TO THE EU COUNTRIES *(Sem Rm 2)*
II. TEMPERATURE CONTROL IN FOOD PROCESSING STORAGE, REFRIGERATION AND FREEZING *(Sem. Rm. 2)*
SEPTEMBER 8 – Friday
9:00 AM FRANCHISE YOUR BUSINESS *(Sem. Rm. 1)*
I. Overview of Franchising Industry
II. Franchise Advantage
III. Franchise Development Process
9:00 AM WORLD-CLASS LABORATORIES FOR GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS OF PHILIPPINE FOOD PRODUCTS
By Phil. Assn. of Laboratory Instrument Users *(Sem. Rm. 2)*
1:00 PM AES LABORATOIRE. YOUR PARTNER FROM SAMPLE COLLECTION TO RESULTS IN MICROBIOLOGY *(Sem. Rm. 1)*
2:30 PM GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ESPRESSO MACHINE *(Sem Rm 1)*
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SEPTEMBER 9 – Saturday
9:00 AM A TO Z OF BUYING A FRANCHISE *(Sem Rm. 1)*
1:00 PM I. INVENTORY CONTROL USING LABELING A PLATFORM SCALES
II. ADVANTAGES OF USING INSTA-PANEL FOR COLD STORAGE CLEAN ROOM *(Sem Rm. 1)*
2:30 PM WHEAT FLOUR QUALITY TESTING, HANDLING & STORAGE *(Sem Rm 1)*
2:30 PM MEGA PROFITS IN THE COFFEE BUSINESS *(Sem Rm 2)*

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

14 British troops killed in Afghan crash

LONDON—THE BRITISH MILITARY WAS ON SUNday investigating its blackest day in the war on terror after 14 troops died in a plane crash in Afghanistan, prompting renewed questions about the mission there.

The Royal Air Force Nimrod MR2 reconnaissance plane, on a NATO mission, came down in Kandahar province in southern Afghanistan on Saturday due to a technical problem, a NATO spokesperson said in Kabul, stressing that it was not shot down.

The crash caused the biggest single loss of British troops in Afghanistan or Iraq since the US-led war on terror was launched in November 2001. Twelve RAF personnel, a Royal Marine and a British Army soldier were killed.

The incident brings the number of British armed forces personnel deaths in Afghanistan since the start of operations against the hardline Taliban regime in 2001 to 36, including 15 in combat.

Six soldiers were killed last month alone and the steadily rising death toll has left some wondering how much longer Britain can tolerate such losses.

Rejecting suggestions that it was "mission impossible," Defense Secretary Des Browne said in a television interview that people needed to understand why British troops were in the country at all.

"We're there in context of United Nations resolution," he said.

"I know that the south (of Afghanistan) is a very difficult and dangerous place and our own experience there has suggested that." However, "the developed world cannot afford for Afghanistan to become a training ground for terrorists again," he said.

Browne added: "We have secured the site and the investigation has begun.

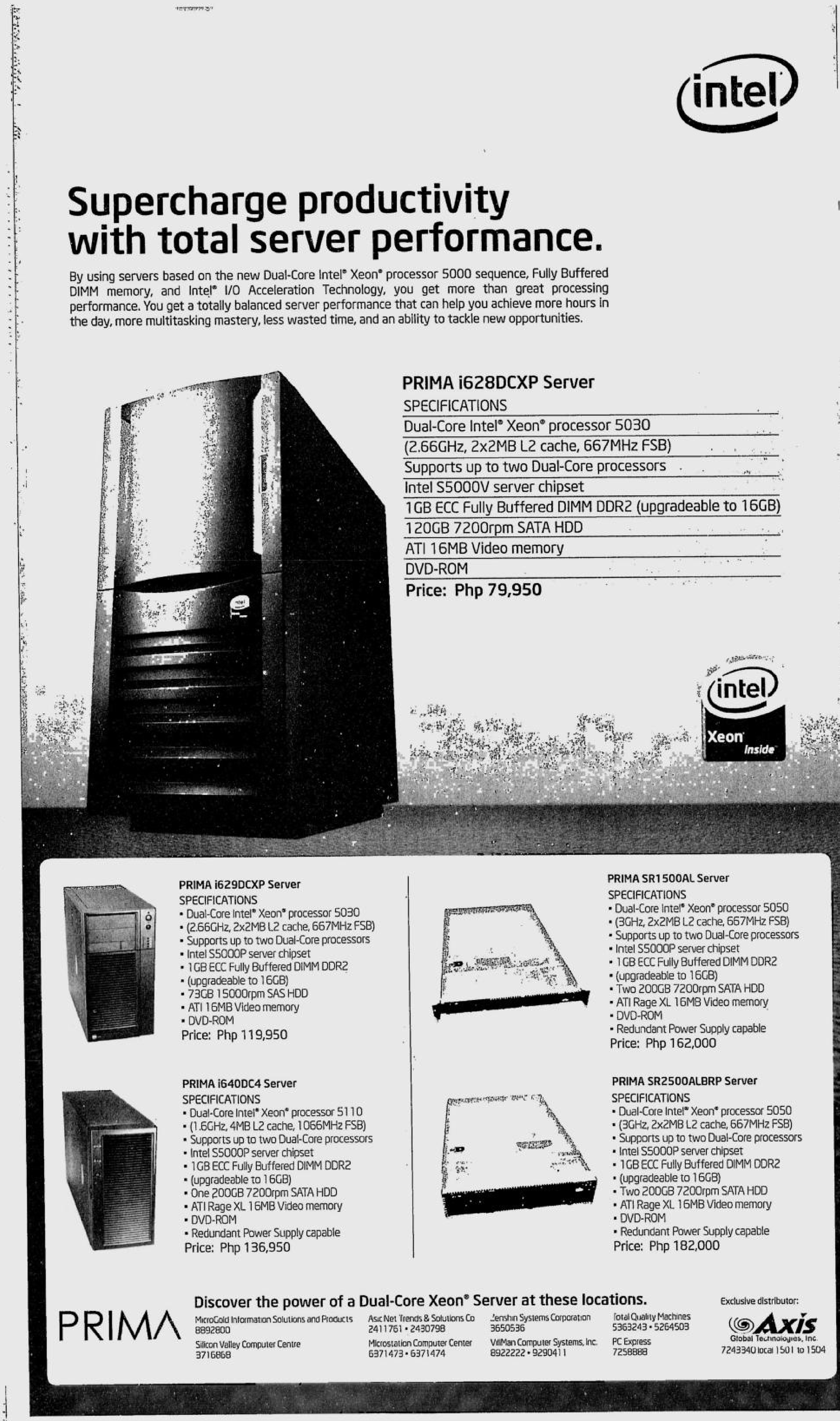
"The indications, both before the crash and since, suggest that this has been a dreadful, tragic accident." Prime Minister Tony Blair said the crash was a "tragedy" which would "distress the whole country." "British forces are engaged in a vital mission in Afghanistan and this terrible event starkly reminds us of the risk that they face daily," he said.

Britain has nearly 4,000 troops in Helmand as part of a NATO-led force working to bring security to the restive southern province in order to allow reconstruction.

But newspapers revealed that rather than being on mere peacekeeping and security duties, Britain was officially at war in Afghanistan.

The Sunday Telegraph and the Sunday Mirror said that under new rules of engagement, commanders now have "war fighting" rules, giving them the legal authority to launch air strikes against suspected Taliban strongholds, conduct ambushes and order pre-emptive attacks against insurgents' camps.

With 7,200 British troops also in Iraq, accusations—denied by the government and military top brass—have mounted in recent months that troops are overstretched and ill-equipped. *AFP*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WORLDBRIEFS

Exxon asked to pay $92M more for Valdez oil spill

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA—State and federal officials have sent a letter to ExxonMobil Corp. demanding $92 million (euro72 million) to clean up pockets of oil that have lingered in Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska after gushing from the Exxon Valdez tanker 17 years ago. A $900 million settlement in 1991 included a "reopener" provision that would allow a request for up to $100 more in cleanup money, so long as government officials could prove that wildlife or the waters and shorelines where they live were still suffering spill-related setbacks that were unforeseen when the settlement was signed. Along with the demand Thursday for $92 million, state and federal legal agencies sent Irving, Texas-based Exxon an extensive budget plan for finding and cleaning up the stubborn leftovers of the 42-million-liter spill. Oil, as fresh and as toxic as the day it was spilled, remains trapped beneath armor-like layers of rock and spread like pavement on some beaches, according to the recovery plan. *AP*

Japan's former Internet icon Horie goes on trial

TOKYO—He once cruised the nightspots of Tokyo in a Ferrari and enjoyed trips by private jet—now he prefers reading or meditating on a quiet mountainside while awaiting trial. Takafumi Horie, the former CEO of Internet firm Livedoor Co. who came to symbolize a bare-knuckles capitalism at odds with Japan's cozy corporate mores, will go on trial in Tokyo on Monday on charges of breaking securities laws. The pudgy 33-year-old Horie was constantly in the media spotlight for his lavish personal spending and aggressive business tactics until a surprise raid on Livedoor in January. *Reuters*

EU gives Iran two weeks

LAPPEENRANTA, FINLAND—The European Union agreed on Saturday to try to clarify Iran's nuclear stance within two weeks and Iran told visiting UN Secretary General Kofi Annan it wanted fresh negotiations on the issue. Annan's visit to Iran takes place two days after the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), reported Tehran had failed to meet the UN Security Council's Aug. 31 deadline to suspend sensitive urnanium enrichment work. The United States, which accuses Iran of seeking atomic bombs, said on Friday it was consulting European governments about possible sanctions against the Islamic Republic, but the EU signaled it wanted to see more dialogue with Tehran which says its atomic activity is aimed at producing power. EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana will meet Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, Ali Larijani, next week to try to clear up ambiguities in Tehran's reply to the major powers' offer of broad cooperation if it stops the nuclear work. *Reuters*

Give reforms time, Merkel tells Germans

BERLIN—German Chancellor Angela Merkel defended her coalition government's reform program on Saturday, telling sceptics the measures would bring benefits in the long run. Merkel has seen her popularity sink in recent months, damaged by wrangling within her left-right coalition over corporate tax and health reforms. Opinion polls have shown most Germans oppose the healthcare reform plan, which envisages raising statutory contributions by 0.5 percentage points as well as introducing a new way of administrating payments to overhaul the creaking system. "It is often the case that a political decision is highly disputed at first, and is then accepted when its effects unfold," Merkel told ARD television in an interview. The overhaul aims to shore up funding for the statutory health insurance system, which has annual costs of around 140 billion euros ($179.4 billion) and is struggling to meet the demands of an ageing population. *Reuters*

France deports more illegal immigrants

PARIS—France has accelerated its deportation of illegal immigrants and is more than halfway toward its 2006 target of 25,000, the Interior Ministry said, but with a new school year approaching the government appears to have largely refrained from expelling families with school-age children. *New York Times*

US bronze medal has little shine /A30 **WHAT'S INSIDE**

SPORTS

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Tigers carve out drama-filled win

By Jasmine W. Payo

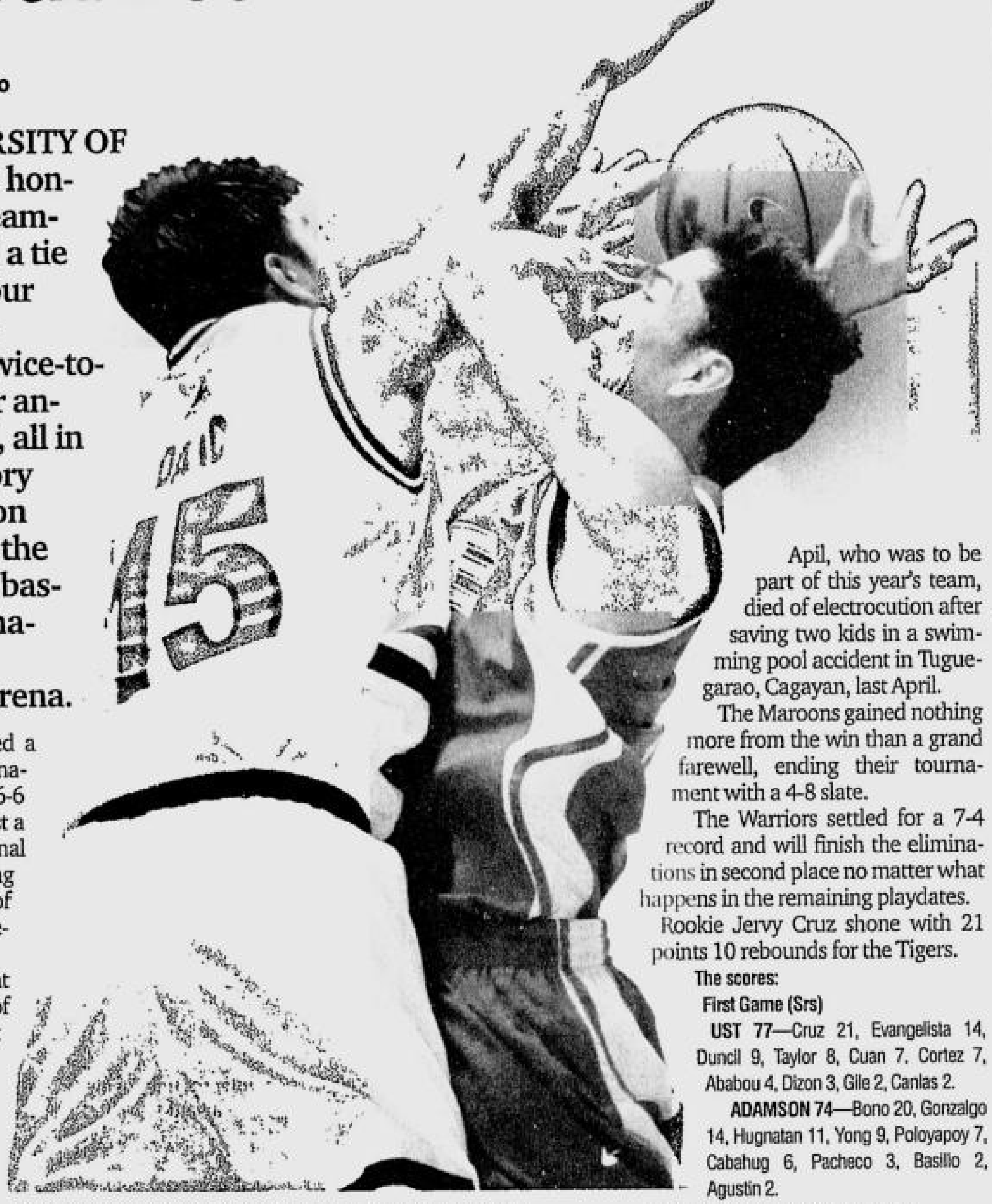
THE UNIVERSITY OF Santo Tomas honored a late teammate, forged a tie for a Final Four slot and gift-wrapped a twice-to-beat edge for another school, all in a 77-74 victory over Adamson yesterday in the UAAP men's basketball tournament at the PhilSports Arena.

The Tigers ended a roller-coaster elimination round with a 6-6 card, sealing at least a playoff for a semifinal ticket and knocking the Falcons out of the race for a twice-to-beat advantage.

That edge went to the University of the East, which lost practically nothing in a 90-85 defeat to State U in the second game.

Adamson dropped into a tie, at 5-6, with idle Far Eastern and both can forge a three-way tie for the last two semifinal spots if they win their final assignments. In that case, the team with the highest quotient advances outright, with the last two battling in a knockout match.

"We still don't know [what will happen], we have to wait for the outcome [of the remaining games]," said UST coach Pido Jarencio, who dedicated the victory to late Santo Tomas cager John Lee Apil, who would have celebrated his 21st birthday yesterday.



NESTOR David of UP thwarts UE's Kelvin Gregorio during their game yesterday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Apil, who was to be part of this year's team, died of electrocution after saving two kids in a swimming pool accident in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, last April.

The Maroons gained nothing more from the win than a grand farewell, ending their tournament with a 4-8 slate.

The Warriors settled for a 7-4 record and will finish the eliminations in second place no matter what happens in the remaining playdates.

Rookie Jervy Cruz shone with 21 points 10 rebounds for the Tigers.

The scores:

First Game (Srs)

UST 77—Cruz 21, Evangelista 14, Duncil 9, Taylor 8, Cuan 7, Cortez 7, Ababou 4, Dizon 3, Gile 2, Canlas 2.

ADAMSON 74—Bono 20, Gonzalgo 14, Hugnatan 11, Yong 9, Poloyapoy 7, Cabahug 6, Pacheco 3, Basilio 2, Agustin 2.

Quarters: 29-24, 46-44, 60-58, 77-74

Second Game (Srs)

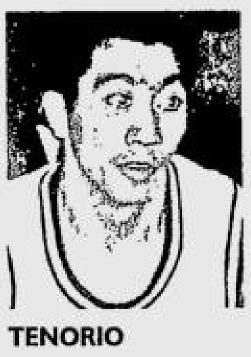
UP 90—Cruz 18, Serios 14, Reyes 9, David 9, Co 8, Sison 8, De Asis 7, Epres 5, Buyco 4, Salvador 2, Cacha 2, Braganza 2, Sorongon 2, Maniego 0.

UE 85—Borboran 20, Arellano 18, Gregorio 13, Bandaying 9, Thiele 6, Martinez 6, Espiritu 4, Canizares 4, Reyes 2, Custodio 2, Lingganay 1.

Quarters: 30-19, 49-36, 67-60, 90-85

Reyes expects big role for Tenorio

By June Navarro



TENORIO

FOR ALMOST A DECADE, OLSEN RACELA has been San Miguel Beer's ever-reliable court general.

But since the arrival of rookie Lewis Alfred Tenorio, San Miguel Beer coach Chot Reyes has been contemplating on relegating Racela from his usual starting point-guard slot.

"It depends," said Reyes after the Beermen signed up Tenorio, fourth pick overall, to a three-year deal on Friday. "The way we figure it, LA needs two years more before he can take over Racela's chores.

"But it could be sooner than expected. That kid (LA) is a fast learner."

If Tenorio proves to be more efficient, the former Ateneo Blue Eagle will become the Beermen's chief playmaker under Reyes' coaching philosophy of "quickness and speed."

"I want a team that can at least match pace with the other quicker teams and LA can set that kind of tempo for us," said Reyes.

Racela, who will be 36 a month after the PBA's formal opening on Oct. 1, hardly started for the San Miguel-RP Team of coach Reyes during its successful defense of the Brunei Cup a week ago.

Team sources said Racela, himself Ateneo's chief gunner in the early 1990s, has been offered a job as playing assistant but declined, insisting he still has a couple of playing years left.

The 5-foot-7 Tenorio, who needs to match Racela's fine outside shooting touch to become more effective, was the RP team's top playmaker in the Jones Cup last July. He helped Ateneo win the 2002 UAAP title and led Harbour Centre to the last PBL crown by winning Finals MVP honors.

APPEAL TO PRESIDENT GMA
PHILRACOM CONTROVERSY

While the Philippine Racing Commission – which is under the Office of the President -- has a new chairman, it continues to stagger with the same set of discredited commissioners, whose terms of office expired last August 15, 2006. Thus, it's unfair for the new chairman to be forced to play the new dog with the same collar. After the dismissal of the former chairman, the Philracom has yet to correct its abuse of authority, foremost of which is the EIA issue. AO No. 17, signed by former Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, had clearly defined EIA as a mere disease of companion animals like cats and dogs under Category E – the lowest on animal classification. There is no loophole in the law, which clearly states the eradication program on animal diseases falls under Category A. This is an opposition to the re-appointment of these same officials, who had proven ineffective in neutralizing the sacked former chairman. These same commissioners have a pending criminal and administrative case at the Office of the Ombudsman. The racing public and Philracom deserve officials with untarnished reputations. Because public service is a public trust. No more, no less.

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PETRON Fuel Success.

Rosal cops Active Mid-Am golf title pulling away

LIPA CITY—ABE ROSAL WON HIS FINAL tournament as an amateur in wire-to-wire style recently, shooting a four-over-par 76 to cop the 5th Active Group Mid-Am crown by three shots at Mount Malarayat's composite layout here.

Counting his opening 70, the 44-year-old banker totalled 146 for 36 holes to turn back Jose Mari Hechanova (76-149) and provide a glittering end to what had been a fine amateur career.

Rosal, who attended a one-month seminar on coaching in the United States, turned pro at the start of the month to concentrate on teaching young golfers the fundamentals of the game.

Raymund Sangil (75-151) won in a countback over Dave Hernandez (74) for third spot in the tournament presented by the Active Group and Pacsports.

Defending champion Jingy Tuason stumbled to a final day 81 for fifth with a 152.

Arnie Fuentebella shot an 86 but still went on to rule the Open II class by five shots over Arnel Agustin (87), while Pitong Quiocho fired an 80 (156) to turn back Alfredo de Guzman (81-161) for the Masters I title.

Alan Alegre came back from three shots down to rule Masters II play over Jun Zapata (91) after an 81 for 166, while Katy Katigbak totalled 155 after a 79 for a three-shot win over Antonio Hernandez (80) in Seniors I action.

Jong Baik nipped Edgardo Cabrera by two shots for the Seniors II crown after an 88 for 170. Cabrera fired an 88, even as Japanese Yoshihiro Akasaka fired an 82 for a 10-stroke win in the Legends I division.

Ben Malabanan held off Mike Santiago by two shots with a 182 tally for the Legends II title. Both shot final-day 89s.

ROSAL shows his trophy flanked by Active Group president Antonio Turalba (left) and Peter Turnbull, Nike Southeast Asia manager.

SPORTSWATCH

Asuela, Balbona set pace in Iloilo Shell Active chess

VETERAN CAMPAIGNER ELLAN ASUELA AND TOP-seed Jessa Balbona hurdled their first three matches to lead the big field in the juniors and kiddies divisions of the Western Visayas leg of the 2006 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships at SM Iloilo in Iloilo City over the weekend. Asuela defeated Stephanie Hilado, Karlely Idio and Douglas Perez in the 20-and-under class of the seven-round Swiss system tourney serving as the sixth leg of the eight-stage circuit sponsored by Pilipinas Shell. Sixteen others swept their first three games to join Asuela in the juniors' lead, including Zilberstein Torres, Richfield Rivera, Michael Cartojano, Antonio Chavez, Aivan Delgado, Romeo Sadia and Bryll Arellano.

Lina, Atienza in PSA Forum

TWO MEMBERS OF THE THREE-MAN PANEL tasked to form a unified basketball federation in the country will be appearing in tomorrow's session of the PSA Forum at the main function room of the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila. Pilipinas Basketball president Bernie Atienza and Basketball Association of the Philippines counterpart Joey Lina will update sportswriters on the hottest topic in Philippine sports today. Joining them in the public sports program aired over Sports Radio 918 and sponsored by Pagcor, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza is Richard Acenas, project manager of Rush Interclub Smashfest 2006.

San Juan stagfest gets going

THE BONUS ROUND OF THE SAN JUAN COLISEum's 270-entry "Rambulan 5-Stag Derby" gets under way at 5 p.m. today with seasoned breeders from the provinces taking part and Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. Promoter Ronnie Lacsina said this event is exclusive only to "Rambulan" participants who scored 0.5 and 1 point in the elimination rounds. The SJC management has put up an additional prize pot of P300,000 for today's champions. For inquiries, call the SJC office at 725-5369 or 725-6563.

5 cockers share LGBA title

BENNY LIM OF TARLAC, EDWIN RAMOS OF LAGUna, Joey Mendoza of Rizal, Dalwin Yulangco of Bulacan and Raffy Campos of Batangas shared the championship of the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 5-stag derby last week at the Araneta Coliseum. The LGBA's stag derby series, sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc., Asvet, Thunderbird, Purina, Gran Matador and B- Meg Derby Ace, resumes tomorrow at the Malvar Sports Complex in Malvar, Batangas, with more than 100 fights on tap. Participants must submit entries today at the LGBA office. For inquiries, call 926-7808 or 924-5051 (loc. 128).

Makati 5-stag derby today

HOSTILITIES IN THE PHINOY COCKERS ASSOCIAtion of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-stag derby series kicks off at Makati Coliseum today with B-Meg Derby Ace as sponsor. Highlight of the eight-leg series is the search for 2006 PCAP Stagfighter of the Year, said promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of WTJ Sports and Gaming Corp. PCAP staged the 2006 Cocker of the Year race recently, with Richard Bates, boxing champ Manny Pacquiao and Jake Macasaet emerging as the top three winners. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475

US bronze medal has a little shine

SAITAMA, JAPAN—THIS EXPERIENCE was not the disaster so many of the uninformed undoubtedly think it was.

"We knew when we started this was going to be a journey, not a short trip," says coach Mike Krzyzewski. "We have to learn the international game better."

How much more evidence could the American basketball public possibly need to be convinced that winning gold medals at the highest level of international competition is no longer easy? Forget about the '30s, '40s, '50s, '60s, '70, '80s and, most of all, forget about the one-and-only 1992 Dream Team, which obliterated 14 foes by an average of 47 points a game and whose smallest margin of victory was 32.

"All those kids around the world who watched the Dream Team are all grown up now," points out America's Shane Battier. "And guess what? They're fast, strong, athletic and they can shoot."

The idea that the United States is struggling to keep up is no longer preposterous. Rather, it's a given. That leads you to the entire business side of professional basketball. How valuable and how viable is the NBA brand now that the US is six years removed from its last international championship?

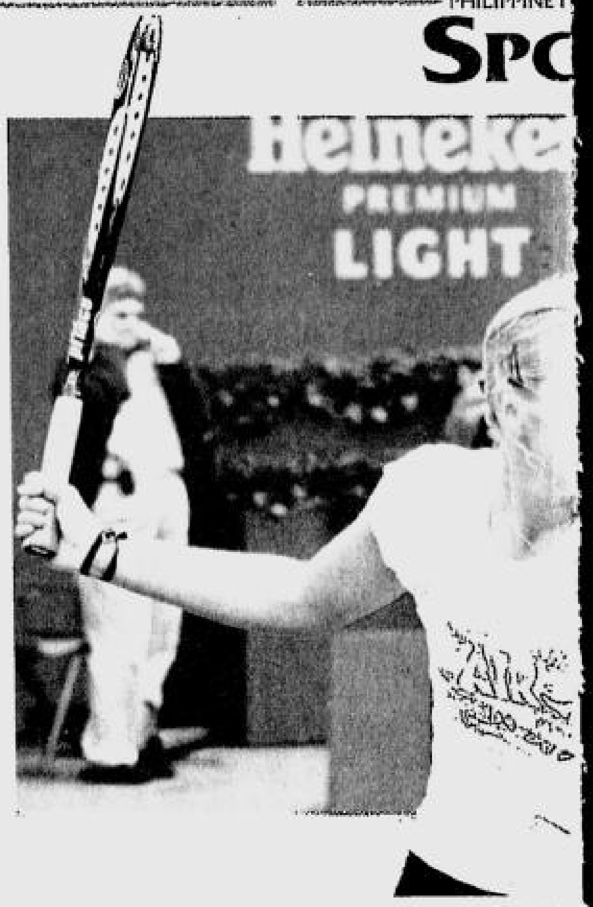
The NBA is the most prestigious, basketball league in the world, but its players are the champions of nothing outside its own borders.

Now, there's the Beijing Olympics to look forward to. But Beijing is far in the future. Before the US can start worrying about Beijing, the team has to get there first. Chuck Daly, the 1992 Dream Team coach, never had these problems.

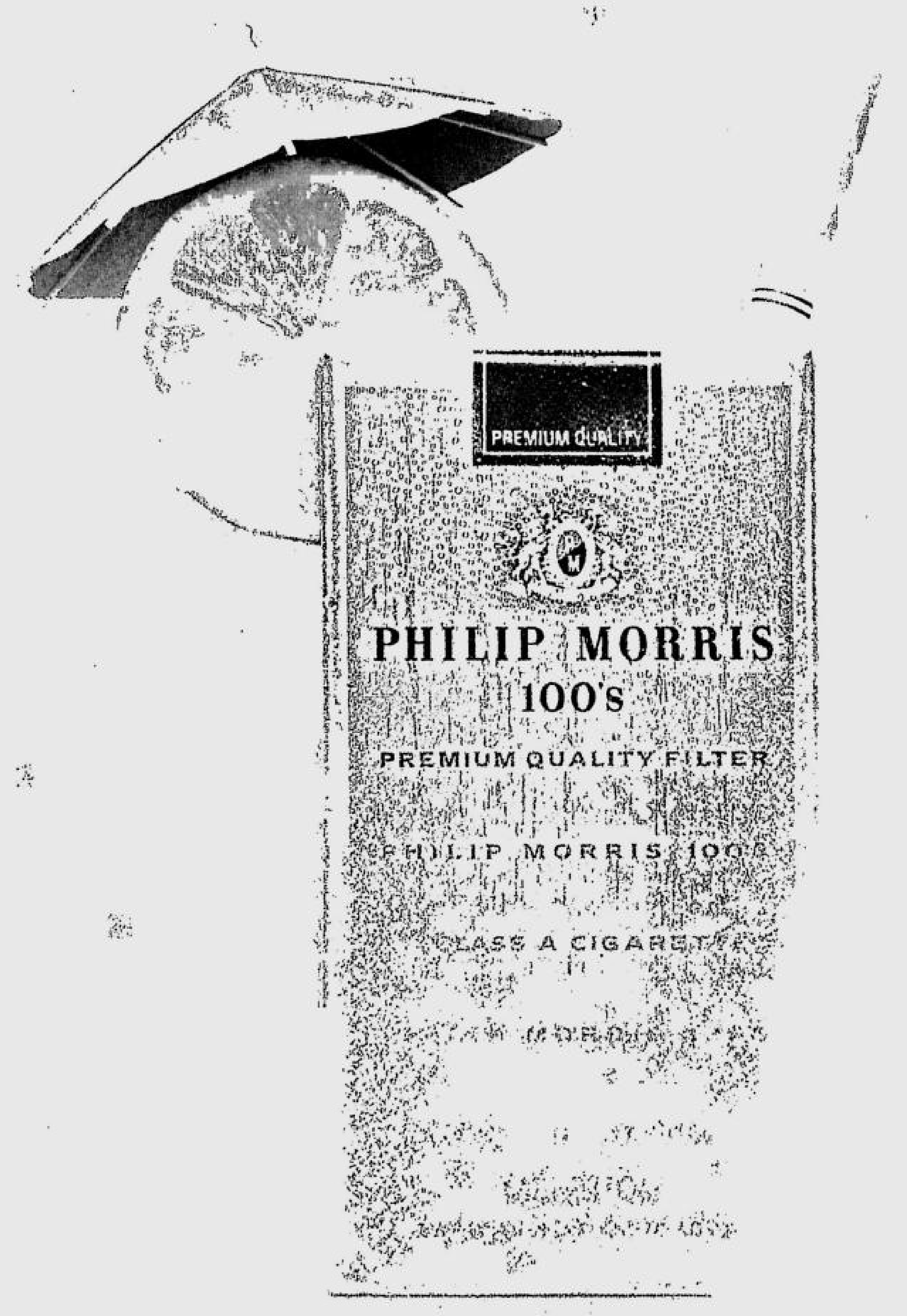
He never even called a timeout. Not one. *New York Times News Service*

Carmelo Anthony (left), Dwyane Wade, and LeBron James (right) now have the Beijing Olympics to look forward to.

AFP



RUMORED to be dating, Russian poster girl Maria Sha
court during a rain-forced break at the US Open.



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rapova and American star Andy Roddick share a practice
REUTERS

Rain halts US Open

NEW YORK—ANDRE AGASSI RE-ceived another anti-inflammatory injection on Saturday and received an extra day to rest before playing in the third round of the US Open, his match postponed because of intermittent rain.

Rain that was barely there in the morning but grew heavy by the evening washed out Saturday's entire schedule at Flushing Meadows. Agassi's match against German qualifier Benjamin Becker was rescheduled for Sunday.

"I'll be all right. I don't need sympathy. I'll be OK," Agassi said with a smile as he prepared to leave for the day.

Matches involving Andy Roddick and Maria Sharapova also were pushed back to Sunday, when tournament organizers will add a night session in Louis Armstrong Stadium for the first time in a bid to erase the backlog. Five of the tournament's 12 sessions have been canceled so far, including two entire days—Tuesday and Saturday—without any matches completed; there hadn't been a single such 24-hour period at the US Open since Day 1 in 1987.

"It's been a tough day, but we are one day behind," US Tennis Association executive Arlen Kantarian said. "We expect to be fully caught up by the end of the day tomorrow."

The 36-year-old Agassi, playing in the final tournament of his career and fighting a bad back, has been on court for more than seven hours already, including his five-set thriller against eighth-seeded Marcos Baghdatis that began on Thursday night and finished in the wee hours of Friday.

"I prefer not to have a drama-filled one tomorrow," said Agassi, whose eight Grand Slam titles include two at the US Open.

The benefit of having time to rest his bothersome back could also result in having to play on consecutive days down the line: If Agassi beats Becker on Sunday, he would be scheduled to play in the fourth round on Monday, possibly against 2003 US Open champion Roddick.

The delay also gave Becker more time to ponder what it might be like to face Agassi, a player he grew up admiring and emulating.

"The most difficult (part) is he's going to have to be able to erase in his mind that he's playing Andre," said Becker's coach, Tarik Benhabiles, who used to work with Roddick.

Agassi went to a hospital to have a cortisone shot Tuesday after his victory over Romania's Andrei Pavel. Then, his back too painful for a car ride after the Baghdatis match, Agassi had a doctor go to his hotel on Friday to give him anti-inflammatory medicine. *AP*

The glory that was Greece

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE GREEKS DID more than just steal the thunder from the gods.

The colossal feat, which saw the Athenians behead American stars from the land where basketball was born, was straight out of the pages of Greek Mythology.

The temblor was so big it was felt all the way to the tops of Olympus and Everest.

"This is a shock to us," admitted the humbled Carmelo Anthony, lead US scorer.

Yes, the upset should also rate as the year's top horror story out there in the United States.

So what had caused the great upheaval?

Simple. The American team had the mighty, more popular individual stars, but an unassailable teamanship projected the Greeks as a race with solid bonding and warmer humanity.

* * *

There was a divine feeling, and this instantly exploded into a national celebration where cups were raised and fireworks lighted in Athens, seat of civilization, and on all the Greek islands, from Crete to Thinos, where once the Blessed Virgin Mary lived.

Well, for starters, the US team came up with a well thought-of combine of NBA standouts and collegiate stars. It was also handled by a college coach armed with deeper nuances of international play.

The idea was to field a team that could really play solid team ball.

The American stars did look they were coming to it early in the world championship series as they went on to register fantastic blow-out wins.

However, a major crack was to surface in the US match against Italy.

Outscored and gravely threatened after the first half that saw them trail the Italians, the US team turned to Carmelo Anthony who bailed it out by singlehandedly taking over scoring chores.

* * *

The US plastered Italy but, in the process, also displayed the major defect that would cause it to fall into fragments in the semifinal game against Greece.

Pushed behind in the final quarter by Greece, the US this time called on another scoring star, Dwyane Wade, to save it.

Super Wade responded with 18 points in the final quarter, but the solidly playing Greeks were far too superior—five men playing as one.

Of course, it was not only the story of how the Americans lost.

More than anything, it should be the amazing tale of how the Greeks did it.

There are, indeed, formulas which cannot be perfected instantly and applied overnight.

More than the intense individualism, there are failures in the system, mainly in team defense, which hobbled Team USA.

Still, it was the sorry case of America being victim of its wrong idea of power, a case of the US falling prey to its own might.

Says NBA expert Bert Ramirez: "The US could not even hit its free shots. James and Wade are overrated playground athletes."

Touche'. For the Americans, it would again be back to playground basics, sandlot savvy at the moment of truth.

* * *

Repeatedly crowded at the shaded area and forced to miss shots from outside, the US predictably could not find an instant antidote to the crippling team defense, a choking fence initially applied by the Greeks when they fell behind by over 10 points in their quarterfinal match against China.

In that game against China, the Greeks defended as though they were facing killers, putting three men against any potential scorer, then sagging onto the receiver with at least two more defenders.

Greece would appear it had at least a total of eight men working on the floor, thereby reducing the Chinese to frantic, maniacal dribblers, as though they had trained in the Philippines.

OK, the final match had yet to be completed at this reporting, but the epic Greek win over the US was indeed bigger than the championship itself.

So here's Greece's Theodusus Papaloukas, EuroLeague MVP, extolling his team: "That's the beauty of sport. They are better athletes. But we know how to play the game. We are clever. Now I hope we get more respect in the world. Our best weapon is faith."

For the Greeks, it definitely was—unlike with us in the Philippines—NOT faith in the NBA and the glitzy US style of play.

WVL meeting set Tuesday

MILO BEST CENTER WILL HOLD AN ORGANIZAtional meeting for the 12th Women's Volleyball League on Tuesday at the Quezon City Sports Club. Although the event is scheduled on Jan. 7 next year, the meeting has been set early to give schools ample time to prepare for their teams and entry forms. WVL is an inter-school volleyball tournament with four divisions—elementary developmental, elementary competitive, high school developmental and high school competitive. Tournament commissioner Florentino "Kid" Santos said the meeting will start at 3 p.m.

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SPORTS

St. Benilde, Miriam fives stay unbeaten

COLLEGE OF ST. BENILDE AND MIRIAM COLLEGE KEPT THEIR UNBLEMISHED records yesterday even as World Citi Colleges extended its winning run in the WNCAA senior basketball tournament at the CSB gym. Miriam routed Siena College, 93-13, and swept Group B with its seventh win, while CSB downed St. Scholastica, 65-46, for its fifth win in Group A. WCC also posted its fifth win in a row with a 59-51 win over St. Francis of Assisi.

Suico-Thai tiff for Orient crown set Oct. 14

THE BATTLE FOR THE VACANT ORIENTAL AND PACIFIC BOXING FEDERATION (OPBF) lightweight title between Filipino Randy Suico and Thailand's Pongpetch Chuwatana will take place on Oct. 14 at a still undisclosed venue in Manila. This was confirmed yesterday by Suico's trainer, Juanito Ablaca, who said that his ward has been sparring in Cebu. This will be Suico's first fight since his failed attempt to wrest the WBA crown on July 15.

Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor

Ailing Antonio third GM to skip qualifiers

By Roy Luarca

ANTONIO: Dislikes tourney format.

EVEN IF HE WANTED TO, GRANDmaster Rogelio "Joey" Antonio is in no condition to compete in the ongoing elimination tournament for the Philippine team to the Doha Asian Games in December.

Antonio yesterday said he's still undergoing medication for stomach problems and is far from his best form to seek a spot in the national team to be composed of two men and one woman.

"I didn't boycott the tournament," said Antonio. "It's just that I need to have more rest, according to my doctors."

Antonio said he was also forced to skip the 3rd Prospero Pichay Memorial Tournament in Cantilan City and the Cordillera Open in Baguio City last month due to health reasons.

The 43-year-old Antonio, the country's second ranked player after Mark Paragua, added that he's not against the eliminations being conducted by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines at the Mall of Asia.

"It's only the Swiss system that I didn't want," said Antonio, who hails from Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro. "As far as I know no Asian country is using it for elimination purposes."

Antonio cited Vietnam, the Philippines traditional rival, which held a round-robin tournament among its top four players to determine its Asiad team. Host Qatar, on the other hand, imported Armenian players to represent the country in the Asiad.

Paragua and GM Eugene Torre also gave the eliminations a miss and are deemed out of the Philippine team like Antonio.

NCFP president Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay and secretary general and Tagaytay Cty Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino earlier stressed that everybody (including the GMs) have to go through the eliminations to qualify for Team Philippines.

John O, 5th Avenue forge showdown

IT WILL BE JOHN O AGAINST 5TH Avenue Telecoms for the 10th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball title.

John O held off a fierce rally by King's Bakeshop to win, 70-66, while 5th Avenue banked on a buzzer-beating basket by Alex Magpayo to nose out Spring Tagaytay, 67-65, in the semifinals on Saturday and arrange a best-of-three crown showdown tonight at the Lyceum gym.

Shifty playmaker Nino Marquez scored a game-high 21 points to power John O, which outgunned King's Bakeshop, 18-6, in the third quarter to wipe out a 30-32, halftime deficit.

Fifth Avenue recovered from a slow start to outsteady the combined Spring and Tagaytay teams in the last 20 minutes of play.

The scores:

5TH AVENUE 67—Magpayo 17, Alafad 15, Dela Cuesta 11, Zagala 10, Vergara 7, Espiritu 3, Mamaclay 3, Yee 1.

SPRING TAGAYTAY 65—T. Reyes 15, Rodriguez 14, Epondulan 13, Capobres 9, Gulyab 5, Neo 4, Yambao 4, Pellejera 1.

Quarters: 15-22, 36-36, 52-48, 67-65

* * *

JOHN O 70—Marquez 21, Buenafe 15, Reguera 14, De Castro 6, Moody 4, Legaspi 4, Gonzales 3, De Guia 3.

KING'S BAKESHOP 66—David 16, Gaco 12, Palaganas 9, Gahol 18, Estrada 6, Mercado 6, Litonjua 5, Tan 2, Go 2.

Quarters: 18-13, 30-32, 48-36, 70-66

SIBAYAN (left) and Madamba solo it home in their respective categories.

Sibayan, Madamba rule Butuan Milo run elims

BUTUAN CITY—ANGELITO SIBAYAN AND Hazel Madamba yesterday topped the 21K qualifying race of the 30th National Milo Marathon here.

Sibayan, who ruled the Davao City leg last year but failed to finish in the same race on July 3 due to an injury, secured another trip to the national finals by ending the two-year reign of Genovevo Azarcon Jr.

"Sibayan is strong," said Azarcon of Cantilan Bank in Cebuano. "I tried to chase him, but he was too fast for me. But at least I still qualified to the finals."

Sibayan, a Criminology student at the University of Mindanao in Davao City, finished the race in one hour, nine minutes and 35 seconds.

Despite improving his personal time, Azarcon settled for second place in 1:12:07. Marlon Bolivar of Cagayan de Oro placed third in 1:16:30.

Madamba, on the other hand, had to push herself to the limit to edge 20-year-old Mary Rose Arman at the endline.

Arman grabbed the lead early in the women's race but the 29-year-old Madamba, who has won every Milo Marathon leg she joined since 1997, caught up with the younger runner with two kilometers left in the race.

Madamba, who also topped this leg in 2004, breasted the tape in 1:34:40. Arman came in 12 seconds later. Catherine Matunhay, 18, of Nabunturan placed third in 1:44:37.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's 21K races automatically qualify for the National Finals on Dec. 10 in Metro Manila.

Yesterday's event, held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Department of Tourism and Powerbar, drew 3,885 participants in the 21K, 5K and Kiddies 3K races.

The top three finishers in the 5K race were Euven Facundo (16:44), Paul John Beduya (17:04) and Aris Bautista (17:45) in the men's class and Jennifer Saguran (21:33), Katt Christine Aclo (21:50) and Shanalie Aclo (23:38) in the distaff side.

The winners in the Kiddies event were Neil Tanquilan and Rhea Ann Boladaco in the 6-9 years old category and Roldan Dojo and Vanessa Casia in the 10-12 group.

Did PBA attendance drop after each Asiad debacle?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I COULD BE WRONG, BUT PAST STATistics showed that attendance in the games of the Philippine Basketball Association dropped dramatically after each debacle in the Asian Games, starting in Beijing in 1990, when the pro league assumed the responsibility of representing the country in the quadrennial meet.

In that 1990 Beijing Games, the Philippines, playing under coach Sonny Jaworksi, finished second to host China. Another PBA selection, this time mentored by Norman Black, placed fourth in Hiroshima in 1994, while the PBA Centennial Team, handled by Tim Cone, landed third in Bangkok in 1998. Four years later in Busan, the Philippines, coached by Jong Uichico, skidded to fourth, frustrating millions of basketball fans obsessed with winning.

In my view, this series of reversals was a compelling reason why the fans have shied away from most PBA games.

As PBA chair Ricky Vargas correctly said, "Good performance in an international competition has a link to an increased interest in basketball in the country, and this indirectly affects the PBA." He added that the Doha Asiad will also be in conflict with the critical phase of the PBA All-Filipino Cup. "I don't think it's right to disrupt our calendar any further," Vargas said.

However, I'm not buying his last pitch. Didn't the PBA already synchronize its schedule with the Fiba (international basketball federation) calendar a few years ago?

On the other hand, national coach Chot Reyes, who once batted for participation in this year's Doha Asian Games, has changed his mind. "Non-PBA participation in the Asiad was a foregone conclusion," he said.

"I think it would be unfair to ask the players to keep on training for nothing," Reyes stressed, adding he would have just one problem: "I wouldn't know what to tell them."

In the Doha Asiad, the Philippines—granting that the Fiba suspension on the country is lifted following the designation of businessman-sports patron Manuel V. Pangilinan to head a three-man panel that will form basketball's new national sports association, as mandated by the international federation—will find it hard to beat the Yao Ming-led China, defending champion South Korea, Kazakhstan, Lebanon and host Qatar.

Since 1986, the Philippines has not beaten China in basketball. In the 2003 Fiba-Asia (formerly ABC) tournament, the Philippines finished a dismal 15th. The second-to-the-last finish was the country's worst ever in the 43-year-history of the Olympic qualifier. The next Fiba-Asia qualifier will be held in 2007.

The very idea of winning in the Asian Games and the Olympics is not going to happen now or in the near future. Filipino players are small in built compared to their taller, beefier and faster rivals. Worse, our present crop of mostly PBA players and a few collegiate stars undergoes haphazard training, not to mention our basketball leaders' penchant for selecting national teams at the last minute.

Perhaps, we could learn a lesson or two from European champion Greece, which upset the powerhouse United States in this year's World Basketball Championship in Japan on Friday. The Greeks have been playing as a team for many years, hence they were better organized.

2 title fights in 'Bakbakan'

A BLOCKBUSTER FIGHT CARD FEATURing two title bouts is scheduled on Sept. 17 at the Don Ambrosio Gym of the Cantada Sports Center in Bicutan, Taguig City. Promoted by sportsman Edgardo "Boy" Cantada, the boxing program, dubbed "Bakbakan Sa Bicutan," features Sonny Boy Jaro's defense of his RP lightfly crown against mandatory challenger Along Dinoy, and knockout artist Florante Condes staking his RP minimumweight championship against challenger Favio Marfa. International referee Bruce McTavish will be the third man in the ring in the main event. Balladeer Paolo Santos will sing the national anthem. Admission is strictly by invitation only, limited to 250 sports personalities. They will be treated to a sit-down lunch complete with an open bar in the air-conditioned venue. The curtain raiser will be at 10 a.m. The title fights will be aired in the time slot of Golf Power Plus and Fistorama on RPN-9 starting at 3 p.m., Sunday, simulcast on Solar Sports. They will be aired worldwide within a week through ABS-CBN's TFN/Pinoy Central TV.

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Traders urge gov't to end Naia 3 impasse

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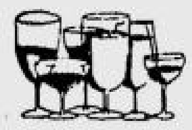

iBank exodus /B5

Upbeat stock trading seen /B4

SSS seeks neutrality in boardroom brawl /B10

PCCI wants decisive action to open terminal

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST BUSINESS ORGANIZATION has urged Malacañang to take immediate steps to open the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, saying it was time to move forward and let the much-needed facility operate.

Donald G. Dee, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the business community would fully support a firm government action to immediately open the terminal for full operation.

"We believe that such firm determination would turn around what is wrongly perceived as the government's lack of political will to place national interest, image and prestige above the selfish interest of private individuals or groups," Dee said.

He added that the PCCI was calling on the contending groups to make the heroic sacrifice for the sake of the country.

The impasse between the national government and builder Philippine International Air Terminals Co. has dragged on since the former took over the Naia 3 in late 2004 in an attempt to open the facility through expropriation.

TRADERS/ B4

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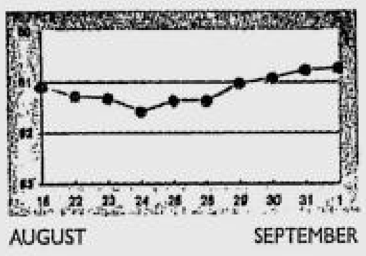

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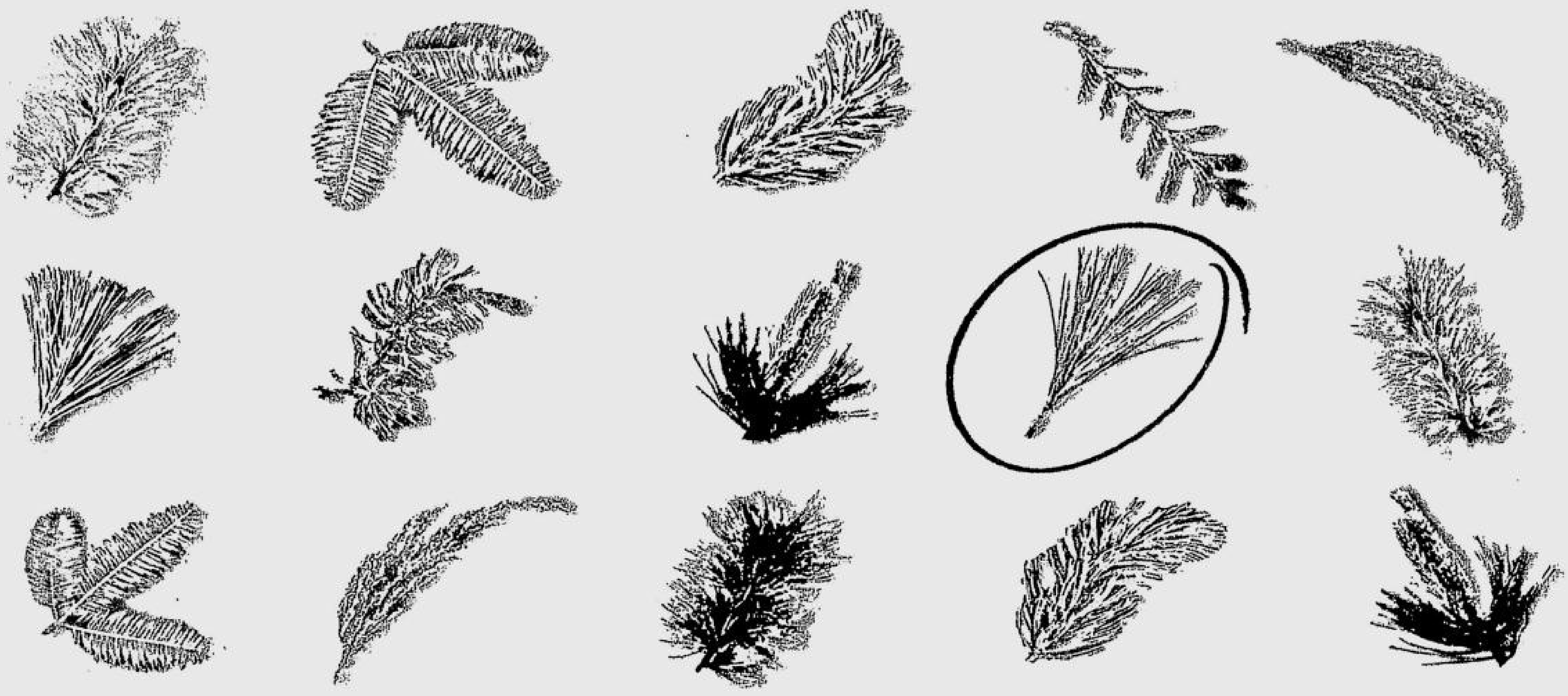

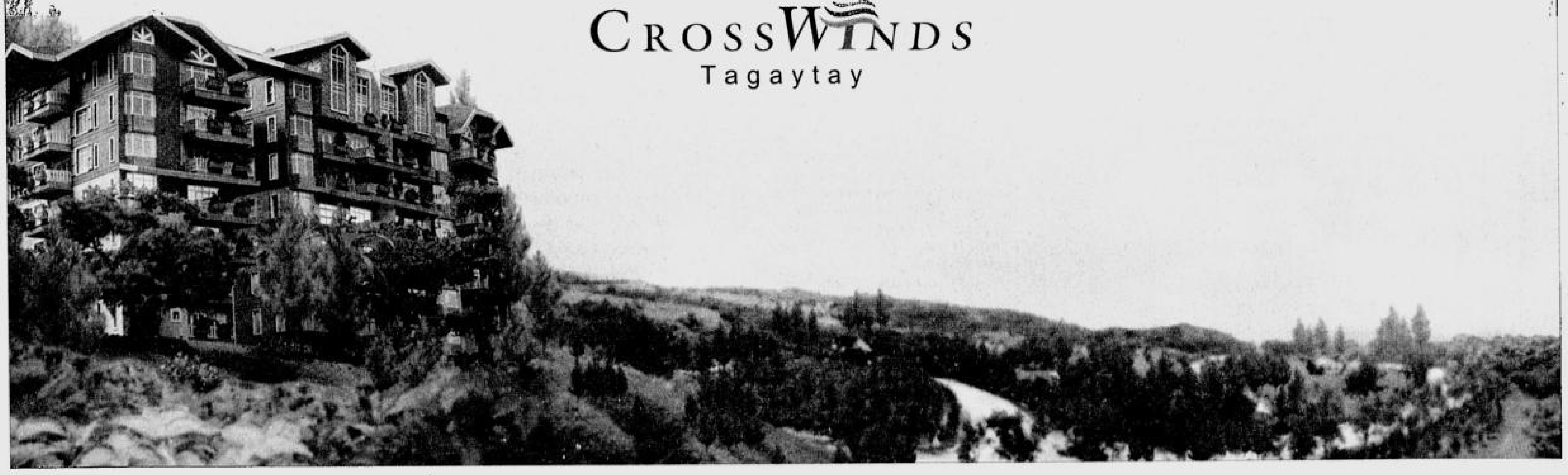

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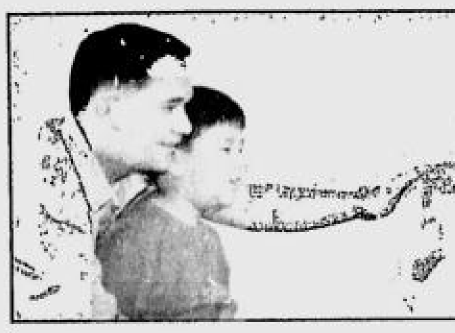

Banks not 'lazy,' just cautious

BAP disputes Neri statement

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANKERS Association of the Philippines (BAP) said Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri was unfair in calling the banking industry "lazy" in performing its role of helping boost the country's economy through increased lending.

Bankers stressed that what was perceived to be an anemic lending activity in the country had to do with lack of creditworthy borrowers and investors, which could be attributed to a business climate that was not attractive enough for businesses.

"Secretary Neri's statement is a little bit too sweeping. Policymakers should investigate what are the impediments for a more brisk economic activity, and Neda (National Economic and Development Authority) has a lot to do with that

BANKS/ B8

No business being in business?

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

WHEN MUST GOVERNMENT INTERVENE IN the economy, and when must it keep its hands off?

Academic economists are often faulted for being too partial to liberalized markets. But not even the most zealous free-market economists would argue that the government should entirely keep its hands off the economy.

Interventions

Should government be in the business of producing and selling goods and services—like rice, medicines, electricity, education, health services, or third-party liability car insurance—to the public, or should it just leave these to the private sector? Should it be telling private firms what and how much they must produce? Should it pick "winners" among the economic sectors and bias government tax and subsidy policies toward them?

Is it right for government to tax its citizens' every move, from earning an income, owning property, travelling abroad, selling/buying cigarettes, text messages, and practically everything else—and then decide who can be exempted from paying these taxes? Should it tax the rich more heavily than it does the poor—or even the other way around (which we indicated in last week's column to be our actual situation!)?

Invisible hand

It is largely true that leaving the markets alone usually leads to outcomes that are efficient—that is, one where the economy's limited resources are put to their best use. When the government tries to "play god" and decides what, how much, how, and for whom goods and services are to be produced—in short, the basic resource allocation decisions in the economy—it invariably fouls things up. China and the former Soviet Union tried it for many years, and eventually decided to give it up and rely more on the free market, even now embracing the WTO. North Korea and Cuba persist in that path, with disastrous effects for the former, and unclear effects in the latter.

Adam Smith, considered the father of modern economics, had argued in the eighteenth century that left to themselves (laizzez faire), markets would be guided by an "invisible hand" that ensures the most efficient outcomes.

When markets fail

But perhaps what Adam Smith did not explain enough was that markets are far from perfect. They often fail to yield efficient outcomes, and more often, fail to yield outcomes that are equitable or fair. Economic textbooks give at least three reasons why markets fail: public goods, externalities and economies of scale.

Some goods and services are public goods that, in the words of economists, are non-rival and non-excludable. When you buy a nice dress for yourself, you keep everyone else from using it; it is a rival good. But when you benefit from the security of having a national defense system in place, others can benefit from it as much as you do (non-rival), and neither can anyone prevent everyone else from enjoying that benefit as well (non-excludable). In such cases, people will want to "free-ride" and avoid paying for these services, or at least pay less than what it really means to them. Thus, it won't work for a private firm to produce and sell such public goods. Government must step in and provide them directly.

Externalities

When firms produce and people consume certain products and services, they could inflict some indirect damage (external costs) or cause indirect benefits (external benefits) on others. For example, when a cement factory pollutes a river, government must make the producer absorb that additional cost imposed on society to lead him to correct it. Government can regulate the production outright (e.g. impose strict pollution controls), or tax the factory in proportion to the pollution it causes. When the owners of dilapidated antique houses in Vigan or Pila spend money to repair and restore their homes, everyone else benefits from the improved ambience and preservation of cultural heritage. Thus, government can be justified in subsidizing their restoration costs (e.g. by real property tax exemptions, as was done in Vigan, or outright funding assistance). Whether costs or benefits, so-called "externalities" may warrant government intervention in the form of addi-

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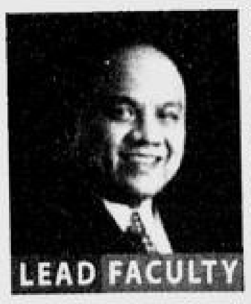
A course for Property Owners, Property Developers and Managers of Acquired Assets Departments of Banks/Financial Institutions
PROGRAM OVERVIEW
This program forms part of a series of interactive short courses on Entrepreneurship in the Real Estate Industry developed by AIM's Asian Center for Entrepreneurship. It is intended for managers of Acquired Assets Departments of banks/financial institutions, for property developers/managers, and for property owners.
The course aims to:
1. Provide participants with a systematic framework and process for converting idle real property assets into profitable development ventures/projects.
2. Present the basic economics of selected options for real property asset development.
COURSE CONTENT:
1. Assessing Opportunities for Idle Properties and Semi-Developed Properties: An Analytical Framework
• Trends in Property Development in Key Sub-sectors (residential, commercial and mixed-use, leisure-resorts)
• Development Prototypes
2. Planning for Property Development
• Adopting the business plan framework for property development
3. Implementation Issues: Joint Development Options
4. Marketing Issues
5. Financing Options



LEAD FACULTY
The faculty for this course, which is participated in by key industry players, is led by Professor Danilo A. Antonio, a current member of the Asian Center for Entrepreneurship [ACE] core faculty as a Guru in the Master in Entrepreneurship [ME] Program.
Prof. Antonio also teaches the Development of Enterprise (DE) and Real Estate/Property Management and Finance electives under the Master in Business Administration Program.
Prof. Antonio remains active in various business endeavors, particularly in the Philippine Real Estate industry, where he has accumulated over 27 years of experience in various aspects of the property business. He is CEO and founder of LAND-EXCEL Consulting, CEO of Phoenix Land Inc., developer of Las Haciendas Resort Farms, CEO of Excelsis Land, developer of Desta & Madison South residential villages and Chairman of Canyon Woods Resort Club.
Prof. Antonio holds a Master in Business Management degree (With Distinction) from the Asian Institute of Management (1978) and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics Degree (Summa Cum Laude) from De La Salle University (1974).
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	as of 8/242006	as of 8/31/2006
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Philamlife Equity Fund	1.3362	1.3473

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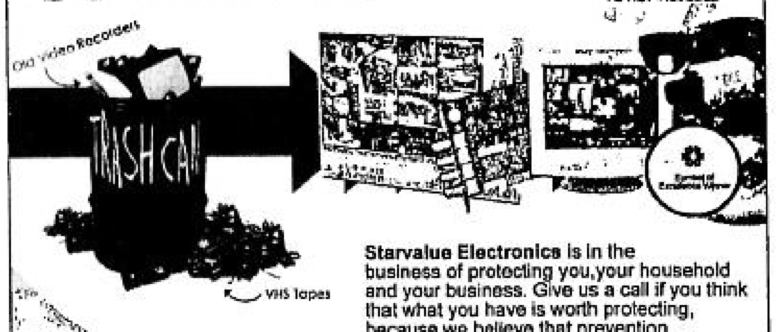

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Upbeat stock trading seen

Strong peso, falling oil prices boost sentiment

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

STOCK TRADING IS EXPECTED TO BE more upbeat this week, boosted by a stronger peso, falling oil prices and some "window-dressing" to close the quarter, traders said.

Oil prices slid below $70 a barrel on Friday with markets betting there would be no rush to slap economic sanctions on major oil producer Iran.

Analysts earlier believed that Iran, the world's fourth biggest producer of crude, could be punished with sanctions after the Islamic republic ignored a United Nations deadline last week to freeze its controversial nuclear energy program.

Markets have warned that Iran could respond to sanctions by upsetting its oil exports, leading to soaring oil prices.

The peso's rally to 50.70 to a dollar on Friday is also expected to boost market sentiment this week.

The peso was buoyed by optimism on the economy, with the government confident that growth this year would be within its target range of 5.5-6.1 percent after gross domestic product grew at an annual rate of 5.5 percent in the second quarter.

"The peso is strong, oil prices are down and even gold is going up. There is a lot of liquidity especially from the locals," said Joseph Roxas, president at Eagle Equities Inc.

Roxas added that news of higher US jobs in August, which left economists hopeful that the American economy will not fall into recession, could also boost the positive market sentiment.

AB Capital Securities said September was normally a strong month in the stock market as fund managers typically window-dress to close the quarter.

"We noticed that a lot of the market's attention is still on the speculative second and thirdliners rather than the bigger cap issues," AB Capital Securities said in a weekly note to clients.

Several companies hit their price ceilings last Friday as excess funds chased some speculative stocks. Among the companies which traded 50 percent higher than their previous day's close were Magnum Holdings Inc. (up 50 percent at P1.98), Seafront Resources Corp. (up 50 percent to P1.68), Mabuhay Holdings Corp., (up 50 percent to 36 centavos), Baguio Gold Holdings Corp. (up 50 percent to P4.05) and Zeus Holdings (up 50 percent to 22.5 centavos).

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Alta Vista B/Corp.*	-	Pls. Call/300.000*
Baguio Country Club	550,000	500 000
Camp John Hay	Pls Call	240,000
Canyon Woods	120,000	-
Capitol Hills	55 000	-
Cebu Country Club	Pls Call	Pls. Call
Celebrity Sports	Pls Call	90,000
Club Filipino	100 000	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	320,000*/Pls. Call	Pls. Call*
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	65 000	-
Fairways & Bluewater	Pls. Call	Pls Call
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	100,000/150 000*	Pls. Call*
Luisita Golf	Pls Call	300,000
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls Call	12,000,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Manila Polo	2,900 000	2,700,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	Pls. Call*	300 000
Makati Sports Club	180 000	160,000
Manila Yacht Club Ind.	280 000	-
Metropolitan Club A/B*	160 000	-
Mimosa Ind./C2*/C3**	Pls. Call	Pls. Call/500,000**
Mt. Malarayat A	180 000	-
Orchard A/B*/C**	180,000/Pls. Call*/400 000**	150,000
Punta Fuego	400 000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	160 000	Pls. Call
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/190,000*/250 000**	Pls. Call*
Rockwell Leisure Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Royale Tagaytay CC	65 000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/150 000**	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,180 000	1,100,000/1,550,000*
Subic Golf	190 000	-
The Palms Country Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Tagaytay Country Club	340 000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	720 000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	Pls. Call	580,000
The Country Club	2,000 000	-
Tower Club A/B*	150,000/180 000*	-
Valley Golf	220 000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	100 000	-
Wack Wack Golf	Pls. Call	6,200 000

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Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,200,000	1,050,000
Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club	Please Call	-
Baguio Country Club	500,000	480,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	60,000	-
Camp John Hay	-	250,000
Canlubang	450,000	400,000
Capitol Hills	50,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,900,000	1,700,000
Celebrity Sports Club	100,000	90 000
Club Filipino	100,000	80,000
Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	-
Forest Hills "A"	100,000	-
Forest Hills "B"	150,000	-
Forest Hills "C"	150,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	220,000	170,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,500,000
Manila Polo	Please Call	2,750 000
Manila Southwoods "A"	330,000	300,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	650,000	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	280,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	-	170,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	650,000	550,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	190,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "A"	190,000	160,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	350,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	350,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	135,000
Spa & Lodge	550,000	500,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,200,000	1,100,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,800,000
Subic Bay Golf	200,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	320,000	290 000
Tagaytay Highlands	650,000	600,000
Tagaytay Midlands	640,000	-
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	150,000
Valley Golf	220,000	190,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	-	6,000,000

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Robinsons plans 5 malls, hotel

ROBINSONS LAND CORP. OF TAIPAN JOHN Gokongwei is building new malls and possibly a new hotel in Tagaytay City in the next two to three years as it continues to remain bullish on the economy.

In a draft prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), RLC identified five new malls that may open between 2007 and 2008: in Paco (Manila), Davao City (Davao del Sur), Tagaytay City, Dumaguete City (Negros Oriental), and Pulilan (Bulacan).

These sites will add 130,000 square meters in terms of gross floor area to the company's existing 18 malls with a total floor area of 1.2 million square meters.

RLC said it was also expanding Robinsons Place Manila by another 62,672 square meters to include boutiques with luxury brands and a first-class restaurant. The expansion of Robinsons Manila may be completed in the first quarter of 2008.

Expansion of Robinsons Place in Bacolod is also ongoing to include themed retail areas that may showcase regional Philippine cuisine, brands and products and other retail services. This will result in an additional 5,529 square meters and may be completed by the third quarter of 2008.

RLC's commercial center division, which develops, leases and manages shopping malls, accounted for 49 percent of RLC's total revenues as of the first half of 2006 and roughly 68 percent of total income in the same period.

RLC is also beefing up its hotel portfolio with plans to build one in Tagaytay City. The hotel is currently in the design phase and may be completed in 2009. The proposed hotel will consist of 54 hotel rooms, 36 serviced apartments, five luxury villas and conference facilities. As of June 30, RLC's hotel division accounted for 13.6 percent of its total revenues. The property giant now has three hotels and an apartelle offering a total of 820 rooms. These are Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila (263 rooms), Holiday Inn Galleria (285 rooms), Cebu Midtown Hotel (197 rooms) and Robinsons Apartelle (75 rooms). *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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COUNTRY CLUB@TAGAYTAY	330K	CLUB FILIPINO	90K
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MANILA POLO CLUB	3.0M	MANILA GOLF IND.	11.5M
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A	330K	MANILA POLO CLUB	2.750M
MANILA SOUTHWOODS B	700K	MANILA SOUTHWOODS B	630K
MANILA YACHT CLUB	300K	MIMOSA-IND.	200K
MT. MALARAYAT C	400K	MIMOSA C-3	550K
ORCHARD A	170K	ORCHARD A	160K
ORCHARD B	350K	RIVIERA GOLF B	100K
ORCHARD C	400K	ROCKWELL CLUB CORP.	300K
RIVIERA GOLF C	200K	PALMS COUNTRY CLUB	350K
ROCKWELL CLUB IND.	230K	SPA & LODGE	450K
ROCKWELL CLUB CORP.	400K	STA. ELENA B	1.4M
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	630K	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	620K
WACK WACK	PLS. CALL	WACK WACK	6.2M

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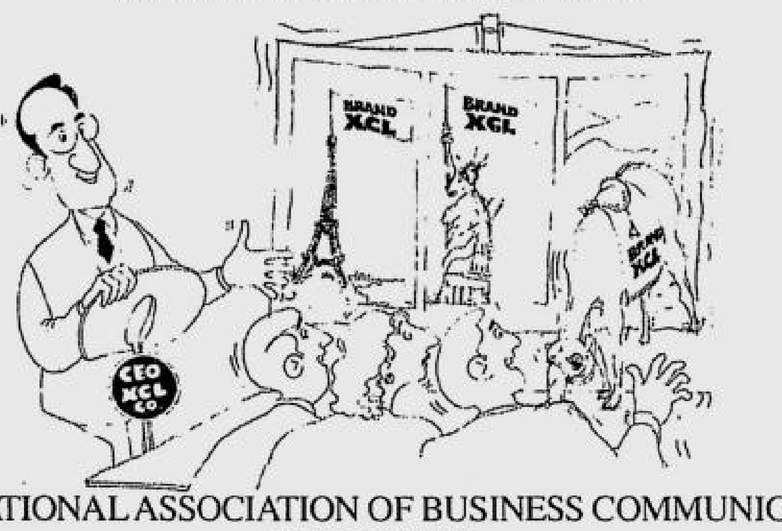

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Bank of the Phil. Islands	53	54	53	53.5	2,414,700
China Banking Corp.	690	700	690	700	40
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	5,290,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	79.5	79.5	78.5	79	276,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38.5	38.5	38	38.5	421,200
Philippine National Bank	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	7,000
Phil. Savings Bank	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.25	18	17.25	18	32,000
Security Bank Corp.	50	52.5	50	52.5	162,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	44.5	45	44.5	45	25,100
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Filipino Fund Inc	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	20,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30	30.5	30	30.5	9,400
Manulife Financial Corp.	1640	1640	1640	1640	90
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	150,000
Ivantage Corp.	1.4	1.44	1.4	1.42	5,324,000
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First Phil Hldgs Corp	43.5	44	43.5	44	1,002,500
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Manila Electric Co. B	27	27.5	26.5	27.5	973,800
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Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	15,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	22.75	23	35,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32	32.5	32	32.5	1,335,400
Rfm Corp.	0.8	0.88	0.8	0.88	590,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.8	3.8	692,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65.5	64.5	65.5	112,700
San Miguel Corp. B	70.5	71	70.5	71	52,500
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	4,000
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18	17.75	17.75	572,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	410,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.66	1.74	1.66	1.72	2,741,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.8	4.95	4.7	4.95	70,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.4	4.3	3.3	4.3	86,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	52,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	19,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	100,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.64	0.67	0.63	0.66	111,890,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	16,160,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.33	0.33	0.225	0.33	240,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	122,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	5,000,000
Ayala Corp.	440	450	440	450	231,960
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.55	0.62	0.54	0.58	3,180,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	5	4.95	4.95	1,047,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.03	0.03	60,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.82	1.82	306,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	7,320,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	16,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.02	1,891,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	19,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	1,564,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.12	1.64	1.12	1.64	2,928,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.14	10,954,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	3.95	3.95	3.8	3.8	1,544,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	2,605,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	97,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	5.9	6	5.9	6	97,000
Jollivile Holdings Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	100,000
Medco Holdings	0.26	0.3	0.26	0.29	1,050,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.36	0.28	0.36	1,560,000
Magnum Holdings Inc	1.5	1.98	1.5	1.98	606,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.44	2.12	1.44	2.12	56,998,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	44,500,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	230,000
Solid Group, Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	40,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	3,100,000
SM Investments Corp.	220	221	220	220	1,126,550
South China Resources Inc	0.96	1.06	0.96	1.06	2,610,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.12	1.68	1.12	1.68	11,938,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	3,300,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	290,000
Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.155	0.225	0.155	0.225	80,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	6,742,900
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.02	7,807,000
Cityland Development Corp	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	100,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.34	0.37	0.33	0.35	10,730,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.28	2.34	2.28	2.34	786,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	2,300,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.2	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.49	21,710,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0725	0.075	0.0675	0.075	35,600,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.38	1.44	1.38	1.4	12,426,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.14	0.17	0.14	0.17	1,630,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.165	0.195	0.165	0.18	2,070,000
Interport Res.	0.007	0.008	0.007	0.0075	240,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	57,000,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.85	0.85	20,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	3,610,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.019	0.022	0.019	0.02	6,600,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.02	0.022	0.02	0.022	3,500,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.7	1.76	1.68	1.74	140,454,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.31	970,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	110,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13.25	713,500
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	4,080,000
SM Development Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.66	245,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8	7.9	7.9	1,675,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.67	0.79	0.67	0.74	15,260,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0925	0.1	0.0925	0.1	1,500,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.5	10,600
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.26	2,209,000
Globe Telecom, Inc.	985	1000	985	995	115,700
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.95	4.25	3.95	4.15	26,622,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1910	1935	1910	1925	498,990
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.215	6,390,000
Imperial Res.	0.019	0.021	0.019	0.021	77,100,000
Ionics Inc.	2.04	2.06	2.04	2.06	1,270,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.0575	0.0525	0.055	8,600,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.055	0.0575	0.055	0.0575	8,200,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.18	1.48	1.18	1.4	440,000
Philweb Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.029	49,500,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	3,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	909,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	1	1	1	1	10,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	1,715,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.7	1.76	1.68	1.76	5,418,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.36	2,000,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.49	700,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc	2.9	3	2.9	3	519,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Jth Davies Holdings Inc.	16	16	16	16	100
Macroasia Corp.	2.24	2.34	2.24	2.28	942,000
Paxys Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	562,500
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.4	3,436,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	5.7.	5.7	5.5	5.5	1,295,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.01	0.009	0.0095	1,021,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	9	9.2	8.8	9	11,428,000
Benguet Corp. A	11.5	13	11	12.5	117,200
Benguet Corp. B	28	28	28	28	2,100
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.1	2.16	2.1	2.1	60,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,750,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	5,910,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.019	10,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.021	24,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.0095	0.01	219,800,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.05	4.05	3.95	4	3,159,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.05	4.1	4	4.05	4,467,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	21.75	21.75	21	21.25	645,100
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.57	500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.62	0.63	0.62	0.63	280,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	2,300,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	342,800,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	50,900,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.18	1.22	1.18	1.2	1,098,000
Pnoc Exploration Corp. B	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	1,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	12	12	11.5	11.5	446,400

Traders urge gov't to end . . .

From page B1

Last week, the International Chamber of Commerce's arbitration court ruled that the government should give back possession of the terminal to Piatco, but officials said it would only follow the decision of the Philippine judiciary.

The Supreme Court ruled in May 2003 that all five contracts related to the Terminal 3 project were void as they were contrary to public policy and violative of the Build-Operate-Transfer law.

In January 2005, the Pasay City Regional Trial Court judge ordered the government to pay Piatco $62.3 million for the expropriation of the Naia 3.

"The issue has dragged on for too long and the opposing parties must place national interest above their own," Dee added.

He said the business leaders could not allow those with personal or selfish interest to prevail over the harmony that existed among those in the business community.

"It is time to move forward and a strong and united resolute action will project that businessmen can work together for the sake of national interest," Dee said.

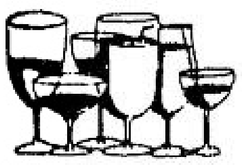
Last year, the Joint Foreign Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines urged Malacañang to muster political will to resolve the impasse and make the terminal useful as soon as possible.

In a letter to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, it said there was "minimal indication of any real progress" having been made with the matter after more than five months of expropriation. "This single issue stands as the largest obstacle to attracting foreign investment capital to the Philippines—particularly in respect of much needed infrastructure projects."

The group includes the following chambers of commerce: American, Australia-New Zealand, Canadian, European, Japanese and Korean. A seventh member is the Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters.

iBank exodus

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

IBANK CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ANTONIO Moncupa Jr. has quietly packed up and is moving on to Eastwest Bank to become its new president and chief operating officer. According to the grapevine, Eastwest is just waiting for the formal Bangko Sentral approval of Moncupa's appointment before making an announcement.

Moncupa joins his president/CEO Ramon Sy—who had gone on to become Metrobank's vice chair—and about 300 staffers who have left the International Exchange Bank since the merger with Union Bank was accepted in June.

Moncupa is taking with him SVP Gerardo Susmerano and vice president Ivy Uy to the Gotianun-controlled bank, another young bank like iBank, having opened a year earlier in 1994.

In addition to Moncupa, EVP for information and technology management Ramon Tanafranca has also resigned even without clear job prospects, while SVP for compliance Arturo Plata Jr., who is 64, has chosen to retire.

Majority of the 300—iBank had exactly 1,531 permanent employees as of end-2005—who left are middle-level officers; of the six area managers, for example, three have already parachuted out. In addition to Eastwest, Security Bank is said to have also picked the best of the lot, having not only acquired one area manager but also the bank's core treasury team.

With Moncupa's impending assumption, the current Eastwest president, Elrey Ramos, who has been with the Gotianun bank since day one, is expected to be promoted vice chair and chief executive officer.

The P3-B debate

TOMORROW, the Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments on whether the temporary order restraining Piatco principal Jefferson Cheng and his unknown partners from getting their hands on the P3-billion windfall from Malacañang will be made permanent.

The TRO was obtained by Ilocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Baterina and his counsel, Ateneo professor Jose Bernas, who will argue tomorrow against their Edsa II colleague, former Samar congressman now Solicitor General Eduardo Antonio Nachura.

Bernas and Nachura, incidentally, were partners in the attempt to impeach then Comelec Commisisoner Luzviminda Tancangco.

During the oral arguments, the government counsel will uncomfortably find itself on the same side with Piatco, despite its official position that the Piatco contract is fraught with irregularities.

Piatco lawyer Eduardo delos Angeles, who was Bernas' dean at the Ateneo, has taken the curious position that, while Piatco opposes the government expropriation of Terminal 3, the contractor is nevertheless eager to receive the initial P3-billion payment.

According to the grapevine, Bernas will ask Nachura to explain why Malacañang is insistent on expropriating Terminal 3 when the allegedly overpriced structure is built on government land.

Bernas' theory is that the government should simply eject Piatco from Terminal 3 and thereafter reimburse the developer the cost of construction, instead of compensating it under the more expensive replacement or market value plan, as is being pursued by Malacañang under the expropriation law.

Nachura, on the other hand, is expected to go for the jugular and argue that Baterina and Bernas have no standing to question the expropriation because the Manila International Airport Authority, the government entity that is actually handing over the P3-billion check, does not depend on a congressional budget for funding.

Piatco, in turn, will be asked to make a categorical position whether it intends to recover payments from both the local expropriation proceedings and the international arbitration in Singapore.

In the Singapore proceedings, Piatco still insists that it should retain and operate Terminal 3 despite whatever payments it may receive from the Philippine government.

The arguments will be heard by Justices Renato Dacudao, Rosmari Carandang and Estela Perlas-Bernabe.

Money-go-round

- LAWYER Ricardo Romulo has retired from his 19-year chairmanship of the Makati Business

COCKTALES/ B8

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that stock certificates nos. 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 of **Sealanes Marine Services, Inc.** (the "Corporation") issued in the names of following stockholders:

Issued to	Date Issued	Stock cert. No.	No. of Shares
Rene E. Cristobal	December 29, 1997	16	3,332
Noel A. Laman	December 29, 1997	17	3,332
Jorge L. Dumatol	December 29, 1997	18	3,332
Luzviminda B. Laman	December 29, 1997	19	4
Luzviminda B. Laman	January 1, 2001	20	3
Christopher Dino Dumatol	January 1, 2001	21	1

evidencing their ownership of shares of the Corporation were inadvertently lost. After the expiration of one (1) year from the date of the last publication of this Notice, the Corporation shall cancel in its book said stock certificates which have been lost, and replacement stock certificates shall be issued in lieu thereof, unless the stockholders post a bond in such amount as may be satisfactory to the Board, in which case, new stock certificates may be issued even before the expiration of the one (1) year period.

(Sgd.) **ZENAIDA L. SALIPSIP**
Corporate Secretary
Sealanes Marine Services, Inc.

(PDI – Sept. 4, 11 & 18, 2006)

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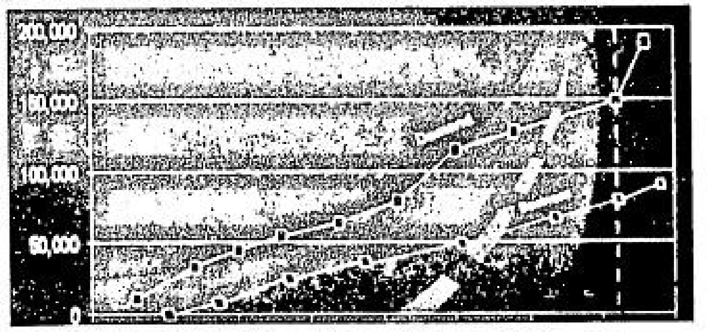

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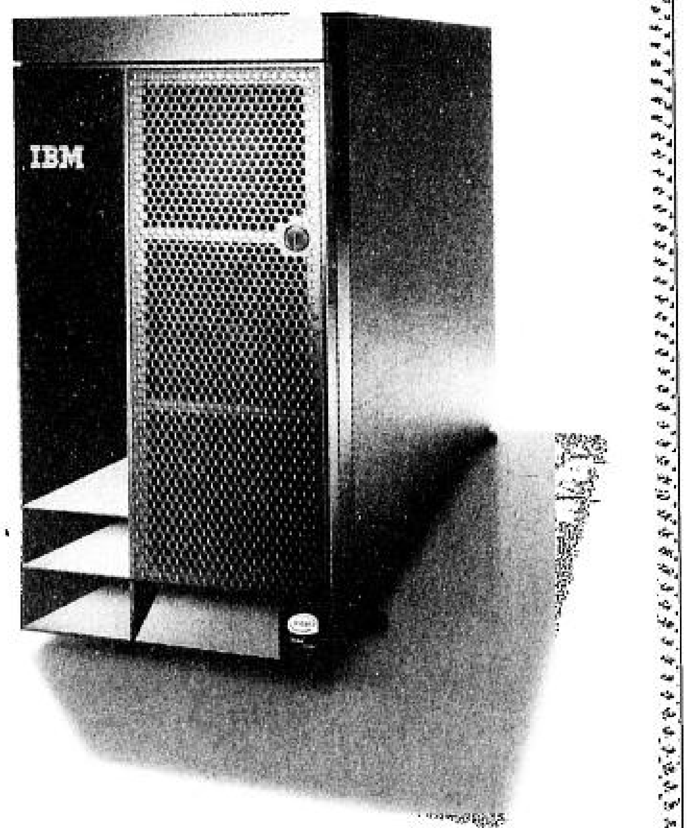

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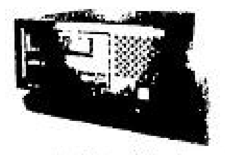

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Korea firm seeks partner in acquiring Mirant assets

By Abigail L. Ho

KOREA ELECTRIC POWER CORP. (KEPCO) IS now in talks with Japanese and European firms with which it can form a partnership to acquire the Philippine assets of Mirant Corp.

Kepco Philippines Corp. president Lee Gil Gu said the power firm would decide within the month which company it would invite to bid for Mirant's power plants.

Lee said that Kepco's potential partners already have existing businesses in the country, particularly in the power generation sector.

But with or without a partner, Lee said that Kepco has on its own the financial and technical capabilities to bid for Mirant's assets.

"We have been involved in the power business for more than 50 years, and Kepco is an expert in operating and maintaining all kinds of power plants," he told reporters. "I think we have some advantage, but we don't know how Mirant will consider our capabilities."

Kepco, through Kephilco, has been in the country since 1995. It operates the 650-megawatt (MW) Malaya thermal power plant in Rizal, and mostly controls the 1,200-MW Ilijan gas-fired facility in Batangas.

It will also be putting up a 200-MW coal-fired power plant in Naga, Cebu, together with Salcon Power Corp.

Kaphilco is the country's second largest independent power producer, next to Mirant Philippines Corp.

"We are interested in Mirant, since we are continuously expanding our operations in the country," Lee said. "We have accumulated our technical know-how in the Philippines."

Early last month, Mirant announced that it would be selling its Philippine and Carribean business units as part of its plan to focus on its home business, as well as to enhance shareholder value following its emergence from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last January.

Mirant currently owns and operates the 1,200-MW Sual and the 735-MW Pagbilao coal-fired power plants in Pangasinan and Quezon, respectively. It also holds a 20-percent stake in the Ilijan power facility.

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GSIS e-card (Part 2)

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

WINSTON GARCIA'S VAUNTED CHECK-less e-card system (please see my column of 14 August) continues to wreak havoc on the quiet lives of poor retirees.

As is their right after long and faithful service in the government, retirees used to receive their meager monthly pension checks by mail. Then, in the guise of achieving operational efficiency, Garcia installed the check-less e-card system.

The system has turned the quiet life of the retiree topsy-turvy. First, the retiree has to apply for the plastic e-card in person at the nearest GSIS branch. Then, every month on pension day, he has to make the arduous trek to the nearest Union Bank branch to swipe the e-card at the automated teller machine (ATM).

Garcia's e-card system can be hell for the retiree, who may be living 50 kilometers, or farther, away from the nearest Union Bank branch. What is worse, the retiree may be already chronically ill or even crippled. Apparently, Garcia just shrugs the retirees' problems away and says, "so what?"

Here is the case of GSIS retiree Magdalena A. Villanueva, 83 years of age, living in 5132 South Wallace St., Seattle, Washington 98178, USA. In April 2005, her pension stopped. When she wrote the GSIS about it, she was told to appoint an attorney-in-fact who could receive the pension in Manila. Apparently, this was in line with the program of the GSIS for verifying who of the retirees are still alive. (The SSS does this also every once in a while).

But, there is no Philippine consulate in Seattle. Anybody who needs to have a document notarized will either have to cross the Canadian border to Vancouver or, as Magdalena did, wait for the consulate staff to make the occasional visit to Seattle.

By the time Magdalena's granddaughter submitted her power of attorney, the e-card system was already in place. GSIS offices now enforce this instruction: "issuance / renewal / validation of pensioner's ID/e-card shall be upon personal appearance of the pensioner at the handling branch/office."

The GSIS is now holding Magdalena's pension hostage until she comes all the way from Seattle to make a personal appearance at the Manila branch in order to claim her e-card and reinstate her meager pension of P5,700 (about US$110) a month. The airfare alone will cost her about 13 months' pension.

Here is Magdalena's Aug. 16 letter to the GSIS delivered personally by her granddaughter Milagros. Read it and weep. "This letter addresses my pension which has been withheld for almost a year now. When we communicated via mail in 2005, your agency asked me to prove I was alive by obtaining my power of attorney that I gave to my granddaughter Milagros Villanueva Remiendo. Obtaining my special power of attorney from the Philippine consulate was very difficult because there is no consulate in the part of the United States that am bound to. I am bound to the city of Seattle in Washington State because I have no place of my own and I have no job for support and I only have small government support for food. I rely on my children for everything. So when you requested my presence in the Philippines to release my pension this was an impossible task for me to perform. Not only is there a financial barrier but also, being 83 years old, traveling a far distance to just appear in front of you would be too much for my health and energy. With an official document of my special power of attorney which has been given to Milagros Villanueva Remiendo (my granddaughter) from our own Philippine consulate, I have proven to a more than reasonable extent that I am still living. I ask for your consideration and kindness to release my pension for my survival."

There must be a law somewhere that holds Garcia accountable for what amounts to be a terrorist attack on Magdalena.

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SBMA to build convention complex

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY is keen on building a convention center complex worth at least P600 million to push efforts in making the freeport a major hub for local and foreign tourists.

SBMA administrator and chief executive Armand C. Arreza said the agency intended to finance the project with its own money considering that "no private investors ever put money in convention centers."

Arreza said the planned complex would include hotels, casinos, malls and office buildings. A convention center by itself would not bring in as much business as such a complex would, he said.

"The project would cost between P600 million and P700 million when bare," Arreza said. "Fully equipped and furnished, the cost could reach about P1 billion."

The SBMA chief said the agency had no intention of incurring more debt for the project and that it would raise funds from internal resources.

He said the convention hall would occupy a full hectare, which means a total of two hectares for the center alone.

As for the satellite facilities, Arreza said the SBMA was trying to enlist big developers to get into the project.

"We had sent a team to Singapore to stir up interest in this," he said. "We hope to start construction work by 2008."

In an earlier interview, Arreza said investors were developing plans to build more top class accommodation facilities in Subic as authorities push for further development of the freeport as a tourist destination.

He said the SBMA welcomed projects that served to increase the stock of five-star accommodation in Subic, where available rooms are first-class and standard.

Also, the SBMA is offering discounts on aeronautical fees of up to 80 percent in an effort to attract more airline operators to open flights to Subic and, therefore, boost tourism in the areas.

Officials said the SBMA was looking into the possibility of Subic Bay International Airport being able to service routes to any point in Asia.

The efforts of Subic authorities complement a program spearheaded by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry aimed at developing Subic Bay an international gateway to the country.

Metrobank sets aside P3.5B for loan-loss provision

METROPOLITAN BANK AND TRUST CO. plans to set aside P3.5 billion in loan-loss provisioning this year as part of its program to boost asset quality, bank president Arthur Ty said.

The Metrobank chief told reporters Friday on the sidelines of its annual awards night for outstanding teachers that the planned loan provisioning for this year would be higher than the actual amount set aside last year.

The bank earmarked about P2 billion in additional provision for losses last year.

He added that the bank would post a "decent" earnings performance this year, despite some analysts' expectations that the country's economic growth would be softer in the second semester.

"The third quarter has been okay. There has been a recovery. It was the second quarter that's bad," Ty said.

Asked why lending activity in the country remained sluggish despite the low interest rate regime, he said: "I'm not saying they're not lending any more but regulations are encouraging banks to be more prudent which is not necessarily bad."

To further beef up the bank's capital following a successful $125 million hybrid tier 1 offering early this year, Ty said Metrobank would push through with its plan to raise an additional $150 million through a fresh stock rights offering.

However, Ty couldn't say for sure whether the offering would be pursued within this year.

Metrobank plans to offer up to 350 million in new shares to existing equity holders. Based on an earlier disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the offer price would be computed based on a 0 to 10 percent discount to either the closing price on the trading day preceding the pricing date or the weighted average price of the shares in the last 10 trading days preceding the pricing date.

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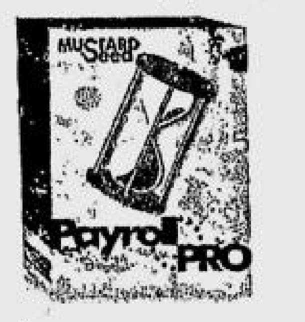

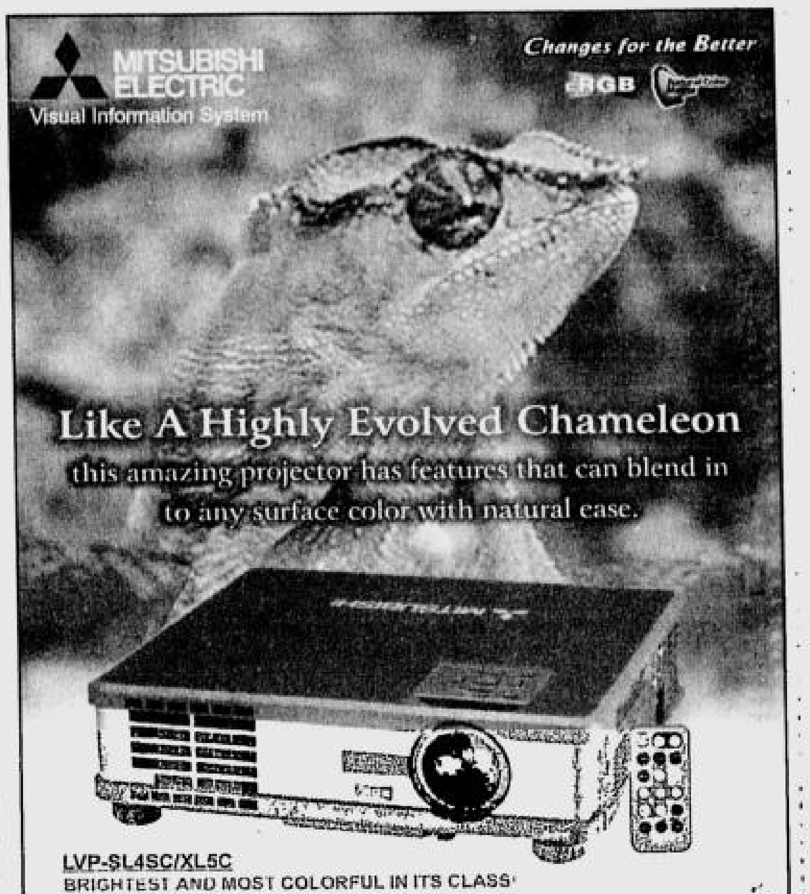

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3:30pm - 5:30pm	Sponsored by: Le Club FCC *(Seminar Rm. 1)* The Reality of Salmonella Control: Treatment and Prevention/Phytogenic Feed Additives - The Performance of Nature for Profitable Poultry Production by: Agrimate *(Seminar Rm. 2)*

October 6, 2006

10:30am - 12:30pm	Latest Development on Modern Housing System for Layers, Pullets, etc. by: Pigpro/JPE (Jansen Poultry Equipment) *(Seminar Rm. 1)*
1:30pm - 3:00pm	Sponsored by: Le Club FCC *(Seminar Rm. 1)*
3:00pm - 5:30pm	Sponsored by: Le Club FCC *(Seminar Rm. 1)*

October 7, 2006

10:30am - 12:30pm	Sponsored by: PHILSURIN *(Seminar Rm. 1)* Sponsored by: Monsanto Phils. *(Seminar Rm. 2)*
1:00pm - 3:00pm	Sponsored by: Le Club FCC *(Seminar Rm. 1)* Trends in Tilapia Farming by: BFAR National Freshwater Fisheries Technology Development Center *(Seminar Rm. 2)* Economic Viability of Carps in Polyculture Fish Farming Systems by: BFAR NIFTC *(Seminar Rm. 2)*
3:30pm - 5:30pm	Sponsored by: Le Club FCC *(Seminar Rm. 1)* Prospects in Backyard Raising of Ornamental Fish by: Bio Research *(Seminar Rm. 2)* Business Opportunities in Mariculture Parks by: BFAR Central Office *(Seminar Rm. 2)*

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Holcim embarks on ₱1-B rehab of Davao line

Investments to be infused despite soft demand

HOLCIM PHILIPPINES WILL INvest up to P1 billion over the next 12 months to bring its cement manufacturing facility in Davao City back to full operating capacity by mid-2007.

The planned investment comes after the facility's main production line was damaged by the collapse of a storage silo earlier this year.

"This P1-billion investment demonstrates our long-term commitment to the economic growth of Davao and the rest of Mindanao," Holcim Philippines chief operating officer Paul O'Callaghan said in a statement.

Officials of the Switzerland-based cement firm noted that the investment was being made despite the prevailing overcapacity in the industry's production facilities—a sign, they said, of the firm's optimism in the prospects of the local economy.

The rehabilitation and eventual reactivation of the damaged line will ease the pressure on an older cement production facility in Davao—long since mothballed—which the firm re-commissioned temporarily to continue production.

Holcim noted, however, that demand for cement had remained "soft" since 1998, when market demand slumped by 13 percent following the onset of the East Asian financial crisis the previous year.

Over the past seven years, demand has declined yearly except in 2002.

For this year, the company is still expecting zero growth in demand despite recent government pronouncements that it would pump-prime the economy through a more aggressive level of infrastructure spending.

Holcim Philippines added, however, that it would continue to pursue programs "aimed at making its plants operate efficiently and according to world-class environmental standards."

"In anticipation of an eventual economic upturn, [the company] has allotted funds to keep even its [idle] lines in good working condition," it added.

In addition to the Davao plant, the company operates fully-integrated cement manufacturing facilities in La Union, Bulacan and Misamis Oriental. The Bulacan plant has an extra production unit with an annual capacity of 800,000 tons that has also been shut down since 1998. *Daxim L. Lucas*

Indian firm seeks site for high-capacity cable project's landing station

By Riza T. Olchondra

INDIA'S TELECOM GIANT, VIDESH Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL), is considering the Philippines as a potential site for a landing station of a $200-million high-capacity submarine cable system, according to a statement posted on the company's website.

The cable system will link Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan.

VSNL is part of India's Tata Group and is a leading international telecommunications company. With its acquisition of Teleglobe, VSNL became one of the world's largest carriers of international voice, complementing its emergence as the largest provider of submarine cable bandwidth.

The India-based carrier said in the statement that its international arm, VSNL Singapore, would spearhead the establishment of the intra-Asian cable system starting December this year.

VSNL is also considering China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia and Guam for the project's landing stations.

The company said the new intra-Asia cable would enable VSNL to better serve global customers who were doing business in and with the burgeoning Asia-Pacific markets.

The company said it was in the process of finalizing design details, . selecting suppliers and identifying additional partners for the project.

The intra-Asian cable system will be linked to the India-Europe submarine cable system which is currently being built to provide connectivity to the Gulf region and the African continent.

The intra-Asia cable, when combined with the Tata Indicom Cable System and the TGN-Pacific cable system, would complete VSNL's multi-Terabit capability from India to Asia and onward to the US, the carrier said.

"The new cables would enhance VSNL's global network in two of the fastest growing regions in the world," said N Srinath, VSNL executive director.

VSNL said it embarked on the project in response to rapidly growing demand for international connectivity from several Indian companies, led by Tata Group enterprises, that have intensified investment projects overseas.

VSNL added that international connectivity was also an important driver of growth of the IT, BPO and KPO sectors.

The market for international and Internet bandwidth is expected to expand as the reduced prices will encourage demand from new customer segments like SMEs, smaller ISPs and academic institutions.

Banks not 'lazy,' just . . .

From page B2

(improving business climate)," Leonilo Coronel, executive director of the BAP, said in an interview.

Coronel said factors like high energy cost, lack of infrastructure and rigid labor environment discourage the entry of more foreign direct investments, a reason for the relatively weak lending activity.

Cesar Virata, former BAP president, said that while lending was the main activity of banks, they had to be very prudent.

"If there are very little investments, banks cannot push loans to people who do not want to borrow. We have to keep the banking system sound," Virata told the Inquirer in an interview.

He said banks could not afford to be lax in lending, considering the problems encountered by Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries during the financial crisis in the late 1990s. The crisis was triggered by bank failures, which were blamed on unsound lending practices.

No free lunch

From page B2

tional taxes or subsidies.

Anti-trust laws

Bigger firms often enjoy a cost advantage over smaller ones due to economies of scale, leading to a tendency for bigger businesses to crowd out or "eat up" their smaller competitors. Last week, we identified this phenomenon as a key reason why the rich tend to get even richer. When economies of scale make bigness an advantage in an industry, government can impose rules that neutralize this advantage, prevent big industry players from bullying their smaller competitors with unfair trade practices, or enhance and expand competition in the industry. The U.S. has anti-trust laws that accomplish this; we have yet to provide the same in our legal system.

Government has no business being in business, it is often argued. But as in every rule, there can be valid exceptions. The challenge is in telling when they are indeed valid.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Cocktales

From page B5

Club, and replaced by Ramon del Rosario Jr. of the Phinma Group. Joining the MBC board for the first time is Doris Magsaysay-Ho of Magsaysay Shipping.

- FORMER PLDT spokesperson Antonio Samson has been elected president/CEO of Mediaforce Vizeum, a media-buying venture of the five biggest Filipino advertising agencies—Image Dimensions, AB Communications, Aspac Advertising, Avellana and Associates and Avia Communications—with Vizeum, the largest media group in the UK and Europe.

Heard through the grapevine

THE SHUTTERED PriceSmart will bounce back next month as "S&R," harking back to its original name, S&R Price, when the warehouse-style shopping club opened for business during the Erap years.

Instead of the four stores, only the flagship Fort and Alabang branches will be reopened.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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Benguet posts losses

MINING FIRM BENGUET CORP. last Friday reported that its net losses in the second quarter was P121 million, higher than the P105 million it reported in the same period last year, due to lower mineral sales, gold production and higher foreign exchange losses.

From January to June, its net losses narrowed to P141 million, from the P153 million it posted in the same period last year.

In a financial report it filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange last week, Benguet said that lower operating costs and expenses, and higher foreign exchange gains helped lower its net losses.

From April to June, its operating revenues declined to P62 million from P75 million in the same quarter last year.

In the first six months, operating revenues also dropped to P127 million from P170 million in the same period last year.

The decline was mainly due to lower sales volume of chromite to 1,296 tons from 3,464 tons, and lower gold production of 624.78 ounces from 698 ounces for the same quarter in 2005.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Republic of the Philippines
PRESIDENTIAL BROADCAST STAFF-RTVM
Malacañang, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *Media and Communications Secretariat of the 12th ASEAN Summit* through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of the Presidential Broadcast Staff – RTVM is inviting suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid the hereunder project:

Integration Services and Supply of Labor, Rented Materials and equipment for the full turn key implementation of the International Media Center (IMC) and related support facilities including the design, engineering, cabling, installation and commissioning of the system of the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu City.

1. Scope of Work:
Full turn key implementation of the International Media Center (IMC) and related facilities. In general the Scope of Work shall include the design, engineering, furnishing, installation/commissioning at the Cebu International Center for the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu City in accordance with the system requirements specified by the PBS-RTVM. The work also includes the dismantling of the facilities after the event.
2. Completion Time:
The Bidder shall complete the project within sixty (60) calendar days.
3. Approved Budget For the Contract: Php 59,861,720.00
Source of Funding: ASEAN Fund

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR). The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Date	Time	Place
1) Issuance of Bid Documents	September 04, 2006	10:00 am	PBS-RTVM
2) Pre-Bidding Conference	September 13, 2006	10:00 am	PBS-RTVM
3) Submission and Opening of Bids	September 25, 2006	10:00 am	PBS-RTVM

Bid Documents will be available at the PBS-RTVM Procurement Section of the Admin & Finance Division (c/o Mr. Cyrus M. Reputana) Tel Nos 734-5681 / 735-6187 to prospective bidders only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 3,000.00 to the Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM Cashier.

The Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved:

(Sgd.) **MELBA B. ALIGAEN**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 4, 2006)

TransCo

Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Rehabilitation of Perimeter Fence at Batangas S/S

Brief Description:

Some portion of the existing perimeter fence at Batangas S/S approximately 120 linear meters is proposed for rehabilitation. The work includes installation of additional layers of CHB, top guard and re-construction works.

[TRANS-06-RPFB-EG-21]

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM***, through the *Internal Cash Generation (ICG)* intends to apply the sum of ***Nine Hundred Thousand Four Hundred Twenty One Pesos and 41/100 (Php900,421.41)*** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for ***the Rehabilitation of Perimeter Fence at Batangas S/S.*** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for the ***Rehabilitation of Perimeter Fence at Batangas S/S.*** Bidders should possess a valid ***PCAB license*** with ***License Particular of at least: "Category D & C, General Building"*** and ***Registration Particular of at least: "Small B, Building and Industrial Plant"***, respectively, have completed a similar contract involving supply of all labor, materials, supervision necessary for the ***construction of any concrete structures.*** The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: ***September 12, 2006, 1:00 P.M*** at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required by ***forty (40) calendar days.***

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting ***August 28 to September 11, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Php1,000.00*** They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before ***September 12, 2006, 1:00 P.M.*** at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on ***September 12, 2006, 1:30 P. M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** *Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 A.M.*** to ***5:00 P.M.*** on ***September 22, 2006.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee ***Php1,000.00***. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting ***September 22, 2006, 8:00 A.M.- 5:00 P. M.***

Deadline for submission of bids is on ***October 4, 2006, 1:00 P. M***. at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R. A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, ***October 4, 2006, 1:30 P.M.*** at the ***OAVP Conference Room B, Transco-SLOM.*** Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation – South Luzon Operations & Maintenance
Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)
San Vicente Biñan, Laguna 4024
Mr. Ruben G. Castuera – BAC Chairman
(02) 981-4576 to78 local 4086; 4094; 4053
rgcastuera@transco.ph
(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007
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(Sgd.) **RUBEN G CASTUERA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Aug 27 & Sept 4 2006)

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DE LA PAZ

EQUITABLE-BDO MERGER BID

SSS seeks neutrality in boardroom brawl

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) does not exactly care whether Henry Sy's Banco de Oro Universal Bank gets to gobble up Equitable PCI Bank, according to SSS president Corazon de la Paz.

What is important, she said, is that the state-administered pension fund gets the best returns on the funds of its members, made up of about 24 million active and retired private sector employees.

De la Paz also stressed over the weekend that she is not allied with the group of the mall tycoon that is trying to merge Equitable PCI with Banco de Oro.

"I am very independent on this matter," she said. "I am not allied with the Sys, contrary to the perception of the public and media."

De La Paz sits as chair of Equitable PCI's board of directors since the SSS owns approximately 25 percent of the bank's stock.

Equitable PCI is the country's third largest bank with P308 billion in total assets under management, while Banco de Oro is the fifth largest with total assets of P239 billion. A successful merger between the two will create the country's largest financial institution, marginally edging out current heavyweight Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.

During a telephone interview over the weekend, De La Paz also stressed her ability to delineate her roles as chairperson of Equitable PCI tasked to ensure the welfare of the bank, and her role as SSS president tasked to ensure the welfare of her member-investors.

"I know how to handle myself when I have conflicts of interest," she said. "Whenever I am conflicted, I know what to do."

In her role as bank chair, however, De La Paz said that neither she nor the board of directors have made up their mind as to whether a merger with Banco de Oro will be beneficial for Equitable PCI's stakeholders.

"We will still study it," she said. "So, how can anyone say I'm siding with the Sys?"

She added that her present activities at the bank are distinctly different from her earlier policies at the SSS, where she tried to sell its stake to Banco de Oro—a controversial move that caused Sen. Sergio Osmeña III to initiate a Senate investigation and challenge the transaction before the Supreme Court.

The case is still pending before the High Tribunal.

In this derailed transaction, De La Paz explained that the SSS' only lookout was to ensure better returns for its members' contributions. What the buyer would have done with a substantial stake in Equitable, she said, was beyond the ambit of her concern.

"Besides, it wasn't even my decision, but the decision of the trustees," De La Paz said.

During the interview, the SSS chair also clarified that she has not received any word from bank regulators objecting to her dual role as bank chair and officer. She also clarified that she is not concurrently an independent director of Equitable PCI, as earlier reported.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION
Region 13-CARAGA, Bancasi, Butuan City

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Date September 4, 2006
Loan No 1668-PH Southern Philippines Irrigation Sector Project
Contract No SPISP-LCB-CTN-01, Construction / Rehabilitation of Cantilan NIS' Laterals A-4, A-5 & A-6 including Appurtenant Structures - **Package 1**
SPISP-LCB-CTN-02, Construction / Rehabilitation of Cantilan NIS' Lateral B-1 & D including Appurtenant Structures - **Package 2**
SPISP-LCB-CTN-03, Construction / Rehabilitation of Cantilan NIS' Lateral B-4 & C including Appurtenant Structure - **Package 3**

(Local Competitive Bidding)

1 The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Souther Philippines Irrigation Sector Project (SPISP) and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payments under the contract for which this invitation for Prequalification is issued

2 The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) intends to prequalify firms for the Construction / Rehabilitation of Cantilan NIS Lateral Canals and Appurtenant Structures based on the above mentioned separate contract packages

3. One of SPISP subprojects, the Cantilan NIS is located in the Municipalities of Madrid and Cantilan, all in Surigao del Sur approximately 285 km northeast of Butuan City. The subproject requires the participation of Irrigators Association members / farmer beneficiaries in monitoring the progress of implementation and in the generation of equity contributions equivalent to 25% of subproject's chargeable cost by way of employment as hired labor and skilled workers, if qualified under these contract packages. The improved irrigation canals including completed appurtenant facilities under these contract packages shall eventually be turned-over to the farmers upon completion of irrigation management transfer process

4. **Package 1** involves the construction / rehabilitation of existing 3.40 km, 1.79 km & 3.40 km canals including 10 units, 5 units & also 5 units of irrigation structures for Laterals A-4, A-5, & A-6, respectively. **Package 2** involves the construction / rehabilitation of 4.306 km & 3.529 km canals including 4 units & 10 units of irrigation structures for Lateral B-1 & D, respectively. **Package 3** involves the construction / rehabilitation of 1.834 km & 5.20 km canals including 3 units & 21 units of irrigation structures for Lateral B-4 & C, respectively. The scopes of contract per package are expected to be as follows

Work Items		Estimated Quantity		
		Package 1	Package 2	Package 3
a.	Canal Excavation, cu m	90	70	370
b.	Canal Embankment Fill, cu m.	13,000	15,670	16,000
c.	Concrete Works with RSB, cu m	1,460	1,460	960
d.	Plain concrete, cu m	340	460	420

5. It is expected that notices of prequalification will be made in October 2006

6. Interested eligible applicants may obtain further information from the NIA-Region 13-CARAGA and inspect the Prequalification Document at the address given below during workdays from 0800 Hours to 1700 Hours, Philippine Standard Time

7 The Prequalification Forms in English language, may be purchased by an interested Applicant upon submission of Letter of Intent clearly stating "Application for Prequalification for Contract No

a. SPISP-LCB-CTN-01, Construction / Rehabilitation of Cantilan NIS' Laterals A-4, A-5 & A-6 including Appurtenant Structures - **Package 1"**
b. SPISP-LCB-CTN-02, Construction / Rehabilitation of Cantilan NIS' Lateral B-1 & D including Appurtenant Structures - **Package 2"**
c. SPISP-LCB-CTN-03, Construction / Rehabilitation of Cantilan NIS' Lateral B-4 & C including Appurtenant Structures - **Package 3"**

and payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00 per Contract Package not later than 1700 Hours, Philippine Standard Time on September 25, 2006. The Letter of Intent shall be addressed as follows:

The Chairman
Bids and Award Committee
c/o ENG'R MEDEL P. MAWILE
Brgy. Bancasi, Butuan City PHILIPPINES
Telepone No. 085-342-3000
Facsimile No. 085-342-5353
Electronic Mail Address niacaraga@skynet.net

8 Submission of Applications for Prequalification, consisting of one (1) original and three (3) copies, must be received in sealed envelopes either delivered by hand or by registered mail to the above address on or before October 9, 2006, 1700 Hours Philippine Standard Time. The envelopes must be clearly marked "Application for Prequalification for Contract No

a. SPISP-LCB-CTN-01, Construction / Rehabilitation of Cantilan NIS' Laterals A-4, A-5 & A-6 including Appurtenant Structures - **Package 1"**
b. SPISP-LCB-CTN-02, Construction / Rehabilitation of Cantilan NIS' Lateral B-1 & D including Appurtenant Structures - **Package 2"**
c. SPISP-LCB-CTN-03, Construction / Rehabilitation of Cantilan NIS' Lateral B-4 & C including Appurtenant Structures - **Package 3"**

9 The NIA reserves the right to accept or reject late applications

10. The NIA will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Applicants in connection with the preparation or delivery of their Applications

11 The NIA will notify all Applicants in writing of results of evaluation of their applications for prequalification.

(Sgd.) **MEDEL P. MAWILE**
BAC Chairman

Noted:

(Sgd.) **DEMOCRATICO P. GRANA, JR. CESO V**
Regional Manager

(PDI – Sept. 4 & 10, 2006)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines

Replacement of Six (6) PDH Microwave Radio Links in Luzon and Visayas Grid (BCMD.2006-07)

The scope of work shall include the Design, Supply and Delivery to sites, Installation and Integration with Existing Telecom Facilities, Testing and Commissioning of Six (6) PDH Microwave Radio Links in Luzon and Visayas grids to include all necessary hardware and software Modules, peripheral equipments and installation materials/accessories.

1. The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), through the Corporate Budget of 2006 intends to apply the sum of **PHILIPPINE PESOS TWENTY EIGHT MILLION (PHP 28,000,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Design, Supply and Delivery to sites, Installation and Integration with Existing Telecom Facilities, Testing and Commissioning of Six (6) Microwave Radio Links between Visayas and Mindanao grid. **Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected.**
2. TransCo now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **Replacement of Six (6) PDH Microwave Radio Links in Luzon and Visayas Grid**. The duration of the contract is **One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days.** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from TransCo and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**, during working days starting **September 4, 2006.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **PHILIPPINE PESOS TEN THOUSAND (PHP 10,000.00).** The method of payment will be on cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. TranCo will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **September 22, 2006** at W. Dela Paz Conference Room, Power Training Center, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **October 18, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and in the amount specified in Clause 22, Section II, Bid Data Sheet** of the Bidding documents or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **October 18, 2006** at W. Dela Paz Conference Room, Power Training Center, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the said address.
9. The bidding is also open to foreign bidders with eligibility requirements described in Clause 3 above and in the Bidding documents.
10. TransCo reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Mr. JOSE MARI M. ILAGAN
Manager, Bids & Contracts Management Division
Ground Floor, Power Center
National Transmission Corporation
Quezon Avenue corner B.I.R. Road
1104 Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 981-2212; 981-2213; 921-2308
Fax No. (632) 921-23-08
Email address jmilagan@transco.ph
Website: http://www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO**
VP-Luzon Operations & Maintenance
and Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – September 4 & 13, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph • Website: www.lto.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

LTO INSIDE WINDSHIELD VALIDATION STICKERS AND PLATE YEAR TAGS FOR 1st AND 2nd QUARTER OF 2007

The Land Transportation Office, through the General Funds (Fund 101) intends to apply the sum of Fifteen Million One Hundred Thirty Four Thousand Twenty Pesos (P15,134,020.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for the procurement of LTO Inside Windshield Validation Stickers and Plate Year Tags for the 1st and 2nd Quarter of 2007. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Land Transportation Office now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the items. The required delivery schedule will be indicated in the approved Contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Sub-Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Php10,000.00, in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Land Transportation Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 7, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at the LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before September 19, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half Percent (1 ½%)
3. Surety Bond	Two and a half Percent (2 ½%)
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred Percent (100%)

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

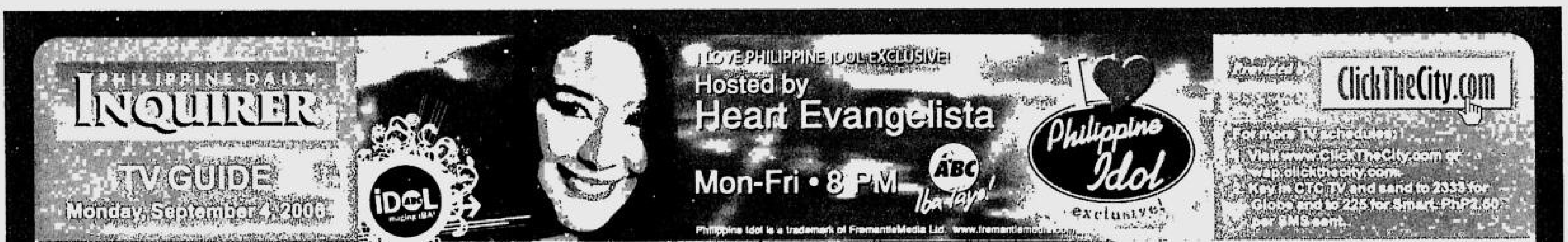
Bid opening shall be on September 19, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at LTO-Library, East Avenue, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The Land Transportation Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Land Transportation Office
Atty. Jimmy G. Pesigan – Chairman, BAC
East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 9219077 – telefax
Engr. Roberto S. Se – Chairman, BAC Sub-Committee
Property Section, LTO, East Avenue, Quezon City
(02) 9292015 – telefax

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JIMMY G. PESIGAN**
BAC – Chairman

(PDI–August 21 & September 4, 2006)


PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Monday, September 4, 2006
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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Legend Of Shaolin Kung Fu	Mon Colle Night	Sentro Headlines	Letty La Mas Fea		Doble Cara		Philippine Idol Exclusive	Wow Maling Mali Bilis		Totoo TV		Big News	TNA	Philippine Idol Exclusive
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Yakitate Japan/ Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Calla Lily	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Bituing Walang Ningning	Pinoy Dream Academy		Bandila		Noypi Kaw Ba 'To?	Mirada De Mujer
AXN								Alias (Season IV)		The Amazing Race Family Edition		The Ultimate Fighter		Numb3rs (Season 2)					
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Simpsons	Samurai Jack/ Sayonara Samurai Jack	PokeMon	Dex	Gundam Seed Destiny/ Shaman King	The Simpsons/ Courage The Cowardly Dog	Teen Titans/ The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Justice League Unlimited/ The Simpsons	The Batman/ Aqua Teen Hunger Force/ Seatlab 2021	X-Men Evolution/ Gundam Seed	Static Shock/ Shaman King
Cinemax	The Searchers (2:25 PM)				The Outlaw Josey Wales (4:20 PM)				Subzero			Night Falls On Manhattan				Love Walked In (9:50 PM)			A Nightmare On Elm Street Part 2 Freddy's Revenge
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		What Should You Do?		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Masterminds	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Prison Break		Prison Break		Cold Case	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-takable Bunny	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Black Hole High	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				Extreme Programming Sports Max 2006/07		Table Tennis 2003 Killerspin Extreme	UEFA Champions League Magazine Show	Major League Baseball Friday						Sportscenter Asia	LPGA Golf State Farm Classic Final Rd.				Sportscenter Asia
ETC	Friends 10	Beauty And The Geek 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Project Runway 2		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		America's Next Top Model 5		ET Weekend	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen (DeGeneres) Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	The Biggest Loser 2		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Benediction And Devotion	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Bible Treasure Chest	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	G.K. Chesterton: The Apostle Of Common Sense II	Threshold Of Hope		Sunday Night With (Encore) Fr. Benedict Groeschel		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Good Or Evil, Who Decides?	The Gospel Of John	Freedom & Authority	Catholic Compass	
Fox News		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In	Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45 PM)		Sayuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Majika		I Luv NY (8:50 PM)	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye II		Mcleod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Family Law		Judging Amy					
HBO	Frankenfish			Perfect Strangers			Radio				When Trumpets Fade			Fearless				Entourage 11: Aquamansion	Entourage 12: An Offer Refused
Hero TV	Gamburagar	Rune Soldier	Duel Masters	Super Gals	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar The Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	BDaman Bakugaiden	Beyblade G-Revolution	Gamburagar	Rune Soldier	Naruto
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Krimen		Japan Video Topics/ Ama		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Ama	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Raw				Cinema Tech	Evolver	Beat The Geeks	Street Smarts	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Jack Yard	Monday Movie Madness				The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Get Color	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	Embellish This	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Food 911	E! Extra: 101 Most Awesome Moments In Entertainment		NY Fashion Week	Martha		Radical Sabbatical	Genuine Article	Good Finds	Style Star
MTV Philippines		Wildboyz	8th & Ocean		MTV Hits					Get Spotted		TRL			8th & Ocean		Handpicked Kyla	MTV Hits	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXlog	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mobile MYX Top Picks		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic	Monkey Business	National Geographic Specials		Naked Science		The Living Edens		Top 5 - Dangerous Encounters	Top 5 - Dangerous Encounters	Wow! Shark Quest		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Naked Science Colliding Continents		The Living Edens: America's Sacred Wilderness	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alas.			Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition		Dol M		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi- [illegible] Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	Ang Mga Nagsi- [illegible] Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Tomorrow Today
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants/ Right On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Humanap Ka Ng Panget				Anak Ng Maton				Noel Juico 16				Babae Sa Breakwater				Isla
Qtv	Love Revolution	Shaman King	Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene		Sorry I Love You		H3O Hahaha...Oyet		News On Q	Sapulso		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Scare Tactics	Movie Monday					Newswatch Now	Go Negosyo		Cargo For Truth
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports				World Pool 2006 Masters		Superfights				Sagupaan		WNBA Finals Game 3				Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	Beach Volleyball: FIVB Men's France	
Sports Plus						Ultimate Fighting C'ship Best Of '02				Party Poker.com World Open '05				World Game		This Is The PGA Tour		U.S. Open '06 Day 6 10th Rd.	
Star Movies			Employee Of The Month			Bram Stoker's Dracula (5:15 PM)					Noel (7:20 PM)			The Librarian: Quest For The Spear			Fascination (10:35 PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Desperate Housewives		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	My Wife And Kids	Everybody Loves Raymond	Yes Dear	Becker	For Better Or Worse		Seinfeld	My Wife And Kids
Studio 23		Yu-Gi-Oh				Batman Beyond	Dragon Booster	Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup						News Central	America's Next Top Model		Travel Time

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RP to end monitoring deal with IMF in April

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS decided to terminate the country's five-year-old post-program monitoring (PPM) arrangement with the International Monetary Fund in April next year.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said Friday night that the Philippines had stretched out the PPM long enough and was now ready to let it expire on April.

"We'll let it lapse," Tetangco told reporters on the sidelines of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.'s annual awards night for outstanding teachers.

"We can go back to the regular Article IV consultation. When we allow it (PPM) to lapse, under the article IV (of the IMF charter), all members of the Fund are still supposed to go through the consultation process once a year," he said.

The PPM is a monitoring and consultation scheme that covers members whose country programs had ended but with remaining outstanding credit with the Fund. Consultations focus on policies that have bearing on external viability.

Under the PPM, the IMF can offer its advice but it can no longer impose policy conditions on covered members, such as conditions on monetary aggregates and public sector borrowings as done under regular country programs.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the Philippines would inform the Fund of its decision after the annual IMF-World Bank meetings in Singapore later this month.

Prior to the PPM, the Philippines has had 20 different financing programs with the Fund, whose funding packages were used to stabilize the country's balance of payment position. During those years, an IMF mission from Washington visited the country every quarter.

The Philippines' quota or financial contribution as member to the IMF currently stood at 879.9 million special drawing rights, equivalent to about $1.3 billion (1 SDR=$1.476). The government estimated that its outstanding debt with the IMF had now gone down to less than $300 million or a mere quarter of its quota.

Each member-country of the IMF is assigned a quota, based broadly on its relative size in the world economy. The quota determines its maximum financial commitment to the IMF and its voting power. It also has a bearing on its access to IMF financing.

A member-country is obliged to stay under the PPM if its borrowing is higher than its quota with the IMF.

Tan group to open 2 beverage plants in Mindanao

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE LUCIO TAN GROUP OF COMPANIES IS expected to open by the end of this year two new beverage facilities in Cagayan de Oro, including a P250-million soft drinks plant for subsidiary Interbev, the local franchisee of Virgin Cola.

Speaking before the 15th Mindanao Business Conference held in Zamboanga City last week, group chair Lucio Tan said LTGC, which already has a "big presence" in the region, was expanding operations in Mindanao due to area's great growth potential.

Tan said the new soft drinks plant was expected to be online and operational within the year, along with a P1-billion rum-making facility for the Tanduay brand beside Asia Brewery's El Salvador factory in Cagayan de Oro City.

LGTC has so far invested at least P1 billion in its carbonated beverage business since it signed a franchise agreement with the United Kingdom-based Virgin Group in 2004.

Virgin Cola is competing for the low-cost market segment, with its 8-ounce bottle priced at P6 or up to P2 lower than rival brands.

Tan said LTGC's biggest exposure in Mindanao was the state-of-the-art brewery, which was the first in this region.

Built with an initial investment of $100 million, the Asia Brewery plant became operational in 1993. It directly employs 500 workers "plus thousands more in indirect employment in the logistics and retail sectors," he said.

"Mindanao is a place where a person can start with nothing and end up with something," Tan said. "(It is) a place where a small business owner can grow to be a big business owner, if that's what he desires."

Tan said he first came to Mindanao in 1968 in Zamboanga, where one of the very first products to roll out of his Fortune Tobacco Co.'s factory—the menthol brand Evercool—became a big hit.

"Our Group's business affairs in Mindanao go further back than most businesses," he said. "We began investing here when this region was still regarded as the 'outback' of the Philippines."

Other LTGC businesses in Mindanao include Allied Bank with a total of 40 branches in the region and Philippine National Bank with 49 branches and is underwriting the bond float to help finance the construction of the Zamboanga del Norte Hospital.

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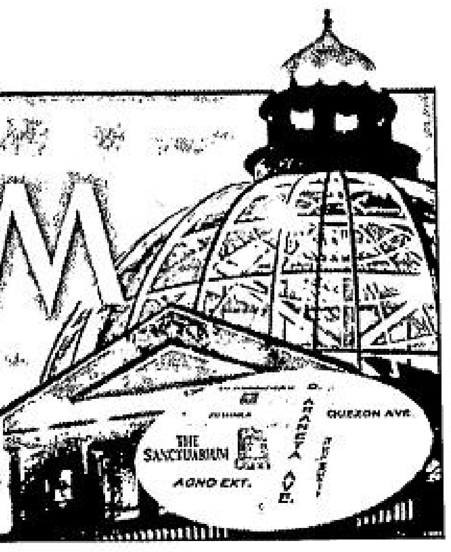
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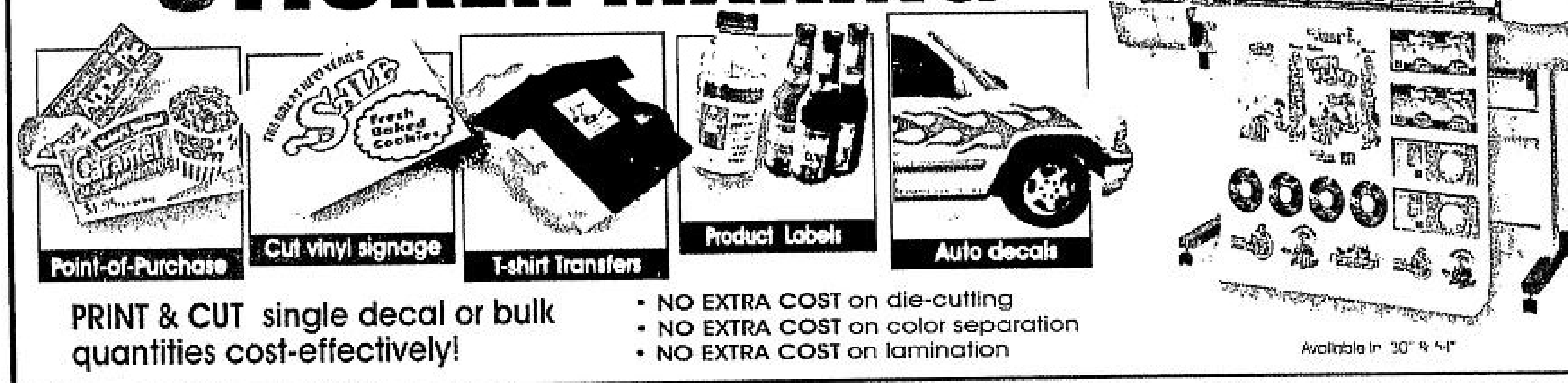

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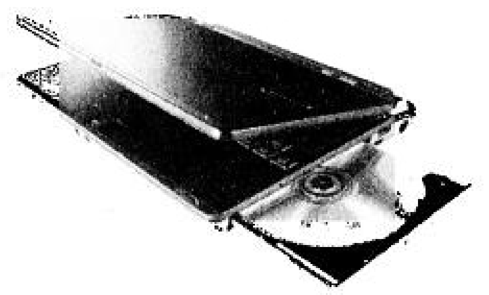

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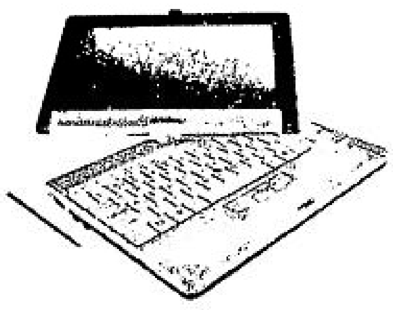

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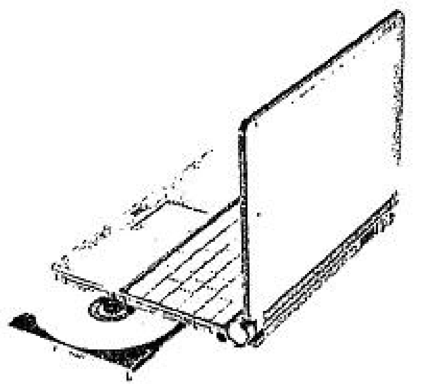

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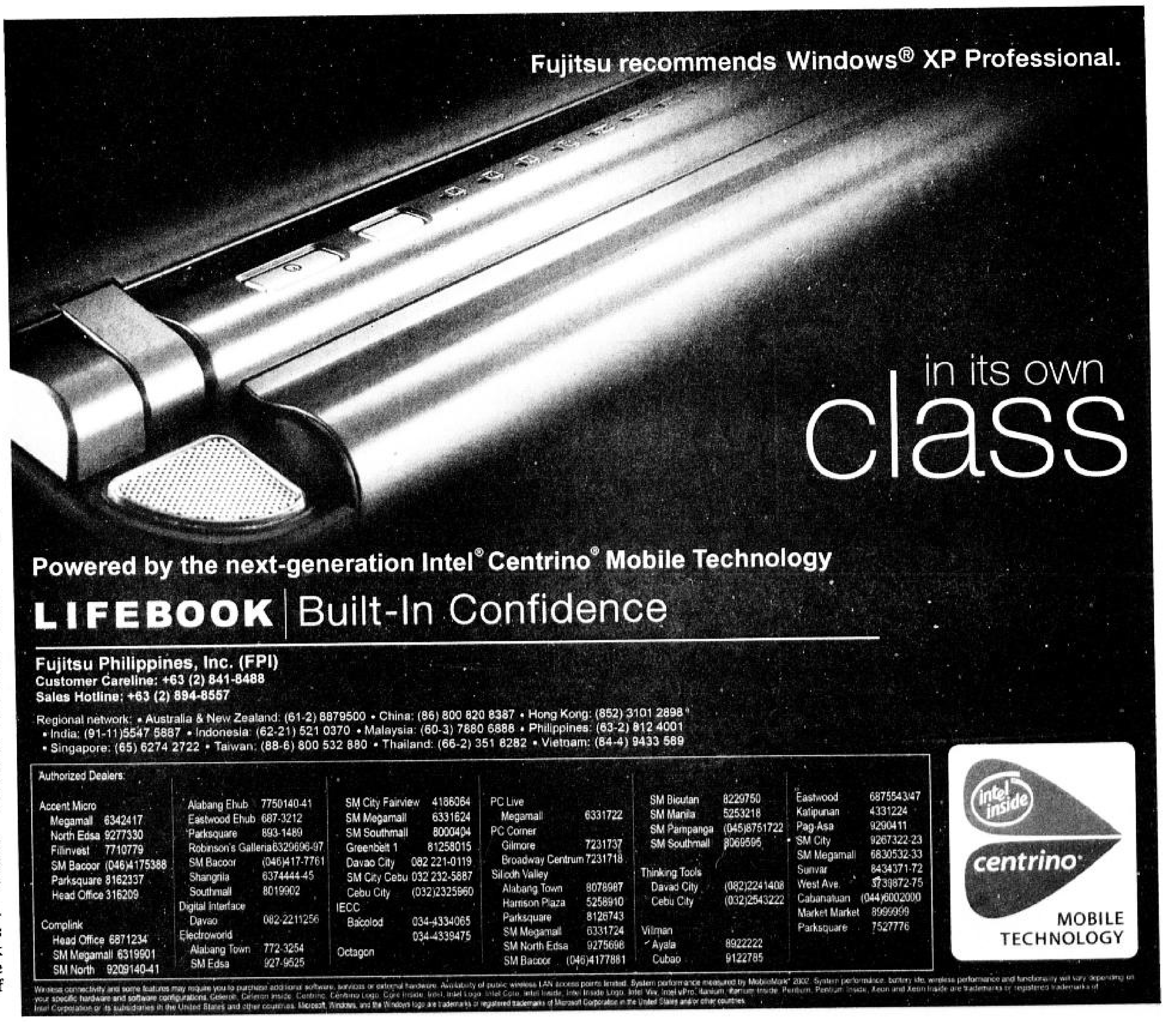

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LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

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Tel. Nos. 522-00-00; 551-22-00 connecting all departments

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
for the
INTEGRATED TREASURY SYSTEM (ITS) PROJECT

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) is conducting a two-stage public bidding procedure for the procurement of an **Integrated Treasury System (ITS).**

The primary purpose of this turn-key project is the acquisition of a fully integrated, Straight-Through Processing (STP), Real-time and "commercial-off-the-shelf" ITS solution for Front, Middle and Back Office which includes the following components:

- Software application, licenses and other software components (DBMS; APIs; connectors; middlewares; etc.)
- Web-based and Internet enabled for remote access by Branches
- Various technical tools

The proposed system should be compliant to IFRS (IAS39) and Basel II among others and be capable to interface with various external systems (Bloomberg, Reuters, SWIFT, etc.) and internal systems (e.g. Deposits, Financial Management System, Data Warehouse, etc.). The proposed solution should also be compatible with the LBP Database Architecture and Operating System.

To ensure the highest degree of fit of the ITS solution to the Bank's requirements, and to effectively manage change, the project scope likewise covers all the requisite software customizations, as well as change management activities like change management planning and communication, the review of ***"As Is"*** processess, business process simplification and improvement, the documentation and training on the ***"To Be"*** processess, organizational change assessment, and assistance in the implementation of the required organizational and process changes.

The project must take into account all related implementation activities and process such as data conversion, systems integration, project management, system development lifecycle, change management, technology transfer (training and documentation), and maintenance and support. Likewise, the solution provider is expected to conduct a post-implementation review at least ninety (90) days, but not to exceed one hundred twenty (120) days, after the system has been implemented in Production, to assess the project performance and the effectiveness of the system.

This is a procurement for **Consulting Services and subject to Public Bidding and Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (85% Technical and 15% Financial)**.

Interested parties may secure the Eligibility and Short-listing Requirements**, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Nine Thousand Pesos (P9,000.00) and upon signing of a Confidentiality Agreement,** from **28 August** to **08 September 2006**, during regular office hours (between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.), from:

THE SECRETARIAT
Information Technology - Bids and Awards Committee (IT-BAC)
LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
16th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza
M.H. del Pilar corner J. Quintos Streets, Malate, 1004 Manila, Philippines
Telephone : +63 2 405-7123
Fax Number : +63 2 528-8588
Contact Person : Alan V. Bornas
Head - Technology Management Group
Email Address : itbac@mail.landbank.com

The Letter of Intent, the accomplished Evaluation Forms for short-listing (List of Projects, Project Team Information, and Major Requirements Checklist) and the rest of the Eligibility Requirements must be submitted by hand on **11 September 2006, 3:00 p.m.**, to the aforementioned address. Only parties who pass the Eligibility Check shall be considered for short-listing.

The IT-BAC shall draw up a short-list of firms from those who have been determined as eligible, and the number of short-listed firms shall not exceed three (3), in accordance with the following criteria:

- Vendor Experience, Expertise and Capability
- Project Team Qualifications
- Financial Stability
- Support Service Location

The short-listed bidders, upon receipt of formal notice, may secure the Bidding Documents (e.g. Request For Proposal, etc.) from **03 to 05 October 2006.** For all qualified parties, the Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on **06 October 2006 (Friday), 10:00 a.m.**, at the aforementioned address.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is **Forty Five Million Pesos (PHP 45,000,000.00), inclusive of all taxes,** which shall be sourced from the funds of LBP. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.

LBP reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the Eligibility requirements and to this invitation. LBP further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) NENITA H. VERAN
SVP/Vice Chairman, IT-BAC

(PDI – Aug. 28 & Sept. 4, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
(Public Estates Authority)
7/F Legaspi Towers 200 Bldg., 107 Paseo de Roxas St., Legaspi Village, 1226 City of Makati
Tel. Nos. (02) 817-4711 to 13; (02) 813-1441 to 45; Facsimile No. (02)815-2662
Website: www.pea.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
PURCHASE OF SIX (6) BRAND NEW MOTOR VEHICLES (06-004)

1. The Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), through its corporate budget intends to apply the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) the sum of **Five Million One Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,155,000.00)**, inclusive of VAT, to payments under the contract for the purchase of Six (6) Brand New Motor Vehicles. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PRA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for One (1) Pick-up Type Vehicle and Five (5) Passenger Wagon Type Vehicles. The delivery of GOODS is required within ten (10) days after issuance of Notice to Proceed (NTP). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Annex A of the Bid Data Sheet (BDS).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents starting August 29, 2006 from 8:00AM to 5:00 PM.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased from September 5 to 11, 2006 by interested Bidders from the BAC Secretariat and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand One Hundred Fifty Five Pesos (Php 5,155.00). The method of payment will be cash or check payable to PRA. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PRA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 14, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. at the PRA Conference Room, 8th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the PRA Office on or before September 28, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount indicated in the BDS. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on September 28, 2006 at 10:15 A.M. at the PRA Conference Room, 8th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. Prospective Bidders should have undertaken a project or contract within the last two (2) years with the same kind and contract price, and should have key personnel and services / equipment available for the prosecution of the project.
10. Pursuant to BIR Revenue Regulations 03-2005, all prospective bidders are mandated to file their income and business tax returns electronically using the Electronic Filing and Payment System (EFPS).
11. The PRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.
12. The PRA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd) **JOSEFINA L. CASTRO**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI--Aug. 26 & Sept. 4, 2006)

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More overseas markets open up for OFWs

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT Secretary Arturo D. Brion said that despite the Lebanon crisis, more overseas markets are opening up for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in the Middle East and other areas.

During a recent forum in Manila, Brion said that significant overseas developments are propelling the vibrant global demand for skilled OFWs.

The Labor Chief said these include the push of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which currently hosts some 1.2 million OFWs, to build several new cities, and the move of the Libyan economy to absorb more skilled Filipino workers.

Brion also said that the government is taking steps, through appropriate training and upgrading, and by strengthening the country's reintegration program, to ensure that the increased overseas demand for skilled Filipino workers will not lead to "brain drain."

He said that the Philippine government has reinforced training and upgrading for OFWs to ensure proper terms, wages, and other working conditions in work sites overseas.

"We regulate the outflow of our workers reaching 3,000 daily to ensure they are properly skilled and documented, and protected from vulnerabilities," Brion emphasized.

Brion said that new training thrusts implemented through the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) would result in more highly skilled and versatile OFWs in the household management, construction, and other sectors.

He said that amidst the effort to boost OFW opportunities in the global economy, the government is also strengthening the country's program to reintegrate OFWs successfully to the country's socio-economic mainstream on their return.

"Our priority is to assist the re-employment of returning OFWs," he said, adding that the Bureau of Local Employment's (BLE) Internet-based Phil-Jobnet system is now being upgraded with a special window to assist the jobs and skills matching needs of returning OFWs.

Brion said that as soon as the inputs are ready, "we will submit our proposal to form, at the national level, a muti-agency National OFW Reintegration Coordinating Committee to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo."

Brion to address ILO, ASEM Meets

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT Secretary Arturo D. Brion left for Busan, South Korea Monday to represent the country in the International Labor Organization's (ILO) 14th Asian Regional Meeting from Aug. 29 to Sept. 1.

From Busan, Brion will proceed to represent the Philippines in the historic, 1st Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) Labour and Employment Ministers Conference in Potsdam, Germany from Sept. 3 to 5.

Labor Undersecretary for Employment Danilo P. Cruz shall be the Acting DOLE Secretary while Brion is abroad.

The Philippines will be among some 43 Asian, Middle Eastern, and other countries invited to attend the 14th ILO Asian Regional Meeting to be opened by the Korean President, Roh Moo-hyun, on the theme, "Realizing Decent Work in Asia."

Brion said that the Philippines' global role in the advancement of decent work will be highlighted during the forum, after the country pioneered the launching of the ILO's global Decent Work Programme earlier in this decade.

Brion, in response to the report of ILO Director General Juan Somavia around Decent Work in Asia, is expected to deliver a speech highlighting the progress of the country's global efforts promoting decent work.

Meanwhile, the Labor Chief said that the Philippines has been given a distinctive role to deliver a keynote speech, along with the European Union Commission, and Germany, at the opening Plenary Session of the ASEM Labor Ministers Conference in Potsdam.

He recalled that the country had earlier performed a prominent role in realizing the inclusion of labor and employment issues for the first time in the two-continent forum, by hosting the preparatory ASEM Conference of Labor Ministries in Asia earlier this year.

He said that the Philippines continues to pursue a crucial role in strengthening the social dimension, and mitigating the adverse effects of globalization.

The ASEM conference will be participated in by the Labor Ministers of both the European and Asian continents on the crucial theme of, "More and Better Jobs – Working Jointly to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Globalization."

PMA chief bats for full implementation of magna carta of public health workers

THE PHILIPPINE MEDICAL Association (PMA) led by its president, Dr. Jose Asa Sabili, is batting for the full implementation of Republic Act No. 7305, otherwise known as "Magna Carta of Public Health Workers" in view of the exodus of these workers to greener pastures thereby affecting the quality of health care delivery.

The PMA deplored the fact that since its enactment into law in 1992, this magna carta has barely taken off, neglecting the well-being of these health workers who are members of the Provincial Health Officers Association of the Philippines (PHOAP), Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines (AMHOP), and other health related professional organizations.

In espousing the cause of these workers for better working conditions and decent salaries, the PMA has been joined by the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) in appealing for the support of the DOH, DBM, DILG and the Civil Service Commission on this matter. As an offshoot, the DILG issued a Memorandum Circular No. 2006-57 dated June 6, 2006 addressed to all provincial governors, city/municipal mayors, vice governors, city/municipal vice mayors, DILG regional directors and other concerned sectors for the reiteration of the implementation of R.A. No. 7305, pertinent issuances, and related laws on the matter. The circular is an admonishment for the local chief executives to take action and be responsible for the welfare of the health workers and their families and for the quality of the delivery of health care which is highly dependent on the human resources working condition and quality of life. They are likewise reminded of the provisions of R.A. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991 Section 60 , which provides for grounds for administrative disciplinary action against local elective officials, such as unlawful refusal to implement the provisions of R.A. 7305 which may constitute dereliction of duty (Sec. 60 c, R.A. 7160) and may give rise to administrative liability, not to mention a separate criminal culpability under pertinent laws (i.e. R.A. 3019, Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act).

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PORT DISTRICT OFFICE OF VISAYAS
CIP COMPEX, SERGING OSMEÑA BLVD., NORTH RECLAMATION AREA,
CEBU CITY PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (032) 232-3401 TO 04, FAX NO. (632) 232-1999
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY, Port District Office - Visayas,** through its Bids and Award Committee – Engineering Project (BAC-EP), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

A:
Name of Contract : Provision of Physical Facilities & Equipment for Port Security
Location : Liloan Ferry Terminal, Liloan, Southern Leyte
Required Experience : 1.0 Building Construction
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P 6,816,817.33
Source of Funds : PPA Corporate Funds
Contract Duration : 45 CD
PCAB Registration : Medium "A" for Building & Industrial Plant
Required Equipments :
1.0 1 unit : Welding Machine (300 AMP) - Owned
2.0 1 unit : Acetylene Cutting Outfit - Owned
3.0 1 unit : Backhoe (0.50 cu.m.) - Owned/Leased
4.0 1 unit : Air Compressor (250 cfm) - Owned
5.0 1 unit : Jackhammer - Owned
6.0 1 unit : Concrete Cutter - Owned
7.0 1 unit : One bagger Concrete Mixer - Owned

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license and registration particulars applicable to the type and cost of the contract to be bid; have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract: must have completed ***50% for Major Items of Work*** (indicated above) on contract/projects with similar in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid within the past ***Five (5) years*** immediately preceding the publication of this invitation and with a value of the **Largest Single Contract** completed must be at least ***fifty (50%) percent*** of the ***Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid,*** and meet the other eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Statement. Application for eligibility, as well as the preliminary examination of bids, will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" criteria. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, a contract will be awarded only to the lowest calculated and responsive bidder.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC activities	Schedule
1.0 Receipt from prospective bidders of Letter of Intent Until (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	September 25, 2006
2.0 Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Until October 02, 2006
3.0 Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Deadline on October 06, 2006

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Philippine Ports Authority, Port Distinct Office – Visayas, CIP Complex, Serging Osmeña Blvd., North Reclamation Area, Cebu City upon their submission of a LOI, photocopy of PCAB License and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **P1,120.00** (inclusive of 12% VAT) to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **P 2,800.00** (inclusive of VAT for above **1M** up to **10M** projects) and **P 2,240.00** (inclusive of VAT for **1M** below projects) to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office - Visayas Cashier.

The Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to the award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **JAMES J. GANTALAO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Sept. 4 & 11, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Oriental Negros
Municipality of Sta. Catalina
Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP II)

Rehabilitation/Improvements of 2.18 kms. Obat-Sto. Rosario Road

Loan 7152-PH

September 4, 2006

The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan fromThe World Bank toward the cost of the SEcond Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDPII) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the LGU counterpart funds, to payments under the contract for Rehabilitation/Improvements of 2.18 kms Obat-Sto. Rosario Barangay Road under Contract Number RIRR 06 225 01 SDC-NO.

The Municipality of Sta. Catalina, Province of Oriental Negros now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Rehabilitation/Improvements of 2.18 kms Obat-Sto. Rosario Farm to Market Road located at Barangays Obat and Sto. Rosario under Contract No. RIRR 06 225 01 SDC-NO and is expected to be completed and delivered within 180 Calendar Days from the date of the official start of the subproject.

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

Item No.	Description of Works	Quantity	Unit
10	Clearing and Grubbing	20,000.00	Sq.M.
12	Roadway & Drainage Excavation	16,400.00	Cu.M.
13	Excavation for Structure	1,920.00	Cu.M.
14(2)	Embankment (using borrow Materials)	5,396.00	Cu.M.
20	Aggregate Subbase Course	1,308.00	Cu.M.
21	Aggregate Base Course	1,308.00	Cu.M.
31	PCCP (fc=3.500 psi)	1,585.00	Sq.m.
50-4	Installation 910 mm dia RCPC with headwalls	30.00	In.m.
51-2	Grouted Riprap with cement lining	852.00	Cu.m.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Subject to exceptions stated in this Bidding Documents, only Bids from Bidders who pass an eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification. The Estimated Project Cost is Five Million Seven Hundred Fourteen Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Two Pesos (P 5,714,852.00).

The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidders as provided in the Instruction to Bidders.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the LGU-BAC of Sta. Catalina and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on September 11, 2006 to October 11, 2006, 10:00 A.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 5,000.00. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before 10:00 A.M. October 11, 2006.

The LGU-BAC of Sta. Catalina will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on September 28, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. at the following address Sanggunian Bayan Session Hall, Municipality of Sta. Catalina.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before 10:00 A.M., October 11, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of ***CASH, MANAGER'S CHECK, CASHIER'S CHECK AND BANK GUARANTEE*** and in an amount of PHP 86,000.00 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on 10:00 A.M., Oct. 11, 2006 at the Sangguniang Bayan Session Hall, Municipality of Sta. Catalina. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at the Sangguniang Bayan Session Hall, Municipality of Sta. Catalina.

Minimum Equipment Required: Bulldozer (1 unit) (225-300HP)-owned; 1 Unit Vibratory Roller (10-12 tons)-owned; Road Grader (1 unit) (125HP)-owned; Loader (1-3 Cu. M) (1 unit)-owned; Backhoe (1 unit) (.75-1.5 cu. M)-owned; Dumptruck (4 units)-owned (8-10 cu.m); Water Truck (1 unit) (8,000 ltrs) owned; Soil Laboratory / Field testing Equipment - owned; Survey instruments - (leased/owned). (Other documents include valid PCAB license, valid and current Mayor's permit, BIR tax clearance and Dole Certification).

Completion of the Works is 180 Calendar Days from the official start of the subproject.

The LGU-BAC of Sta. Catalina, Oriental Negros reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ARCDPII-LGU-BAC Municipality of Sta. Catalina, Oriental Negros
(Sgd.) **ENGR. FILEMON B. IBALE, JR.**
M.E. and ARCDPII-LGU-BAC Chairman
Municipality of Sta. Catalina
Province of Oriental Negros
Telephone # 035-531-0297

(Sgd.) ENGR. FILEMON B. IBALE, JR.
M.E. and ARCDPII-LGU-BAC
CHAIRMAN

(PDI – September 4, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
Roxas Boulevard Corner Pablo Ocampo, Sr. Street
Manila 1004

ONE-STOP SHOP INTER-AGENCY TAX CREDIT AND DUTY DRAWBACK CENTER

OFFICE ORDER NO. 031-2006

28 August 2006

Pursuant to Section 8 of Department Order No. 20-06, this Order is hereby promulgated to prescribe the guidelines for the effective implementation of Special Revalidation Program under said Department Order.

Section 1. *Coverage.* The Special Revalidation Program, as implemented by this Order, covers all outstanding tax credit certificates (TCCs) issued prior to August 1, 2006, particularly:

A. Those issued solely by this Office (the "Center") under Executive Order No. 226, otherwise known as the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, Presidential Decree No. 1789, as amended by Batas Pambansa Blg. 391, Republic Act No. 8550, Republic Act No. 8479, Executive Order No. 765 (s. 1982), and other existing laws and issuances;

B. Those jointly issued by the Center and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) under Section 112 of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended; and

C. Those jointly issued by the Center and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) under Section 106 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended.

Section 2. *Definition of Terms.* For purposes of this Order, the terms below are defined as follows:

A. **Special Revalidation** - refers to the retirement or recall and cancellation of all outstanding tax credit certificates (TCCs), and their replacement with new TCCs utilizing updated forms with enhanced security features.

B. **Outstanding TCCs** – refers to TCCs issued prior to August 1, 2006 and which have creditable/outstanding balances as of said date.

C. **Updated forms** – refers to the following accountable forms with enhanced security features:

1. OSS Form No. 0301 (2005 series) for TCCs covered under Section 1(a) of this Order.
2. OSS Form No. 0303 (2005 series) for TCCs covered under Section 1(b) of this Order.
3. OSS Form No. 0302 (2006 series) for TCCs covered under Section 1(c) of this Order

D. **Revalidated TCC** – A TCC in updated form issued under the special revalidation program.

Section 3. *Issuance of New TCC Form.* Beginning August 1, 2006, the updated forms shall be used by the Center for all TCC issuances.

TCCs using OSS Form Nos. 0301 (2005 series) and 0303 (2005 series), which were issued by the Center from December 2005 to July 2006, are covered by the special revalidation program.

Section 4. *Period of Revalidation.* The official period for the Special Revalidation Program shall commence on August 1 and end on December 31, 2006. TCCs submitted after this period shall be referred to the Center's Executive Committee for policy guideline/directive.

Section 5. *Procedures.* The procedures prescribed in this section shall govern the processing of applications for special revalidation filed on TCC holders. TCCs deemed filed for special revalidation shall be governed separately by Section 6, 7, 8, and 9 of this Order.

A. *Documentary Requirements, Pre-screening and Filing.* The TCC holder, either the original grantee or the transferee, shall officially file an application for special revalidation with the Center's Office of the Executive Director together with the following documents:

1. Duly accomplished Application Form (Annexes "A," "B," and "C"), which may be obtained directly from the Center or downloaded at http://taxcredit.dof.gov.ph;
2. Original TCC(s) applied for of special revalidation; and,
3. Secretary's certificate on the board resolution designating the TCC holder's authorized representative.

Prior to filing, the application shall be submitted to the Special Revalidation Committee of the Center (SRC) for pre-screening. If the documents are complete and in order, the application shall be officially received by the DOP Receiving Section. If the documents are incomplete, the application shall be returned to the applicant.

The original TCC need not be attached to the application if the same is: (1) a TCC jointly issued by the Center and BOC which is in the custody of the Center, and (2) not a TCC covered by the provisions of Sections 6 and 7 of this Order.

B. *Evaluation of the Application.*

1. The DOF Receiving Section shall forward the application to the SRC for evaluation. The evaluation process shall aim to establish the following criteria:
   a. That the TCC has been duly issued by the Center;
   b. That there has been no tampering on the certificate;
   c. That the party requesting the revalidation of the TCC is its rightful owner;
   d. That the TCC is not yet expired; and,
   e. That the TCC has remaining creditable/outstanding balance
2. When all these criteria are met, a recommendation for the approval of the application shall be prepared.
   a. For TCCs under Section 1(a) of this Order, the recommendation shall be reviewed by the Head of the Investment Incentives Group who, in turn, shall endorse the recommendation for final approval of the Executive Director of the Center.
   b. For TCCs under Section 1(b) and (c) of this Order, the recommendation shall be approved by the Executive Director of the Center and then forwarded to the BIR or BOC, as the case may be, for final evaluation and approval.
3. The creditable/outstanding balance of the TCC subject of revalidation shall be determined on the basis of the following:
   a. For TCCs under Section 1(a) of this Order - postings on the dorsal portion of the TCC, declaration of the applicant, and records of the Center.
   b. For TCCs under Section 1(b) and (c) of this Order - postings on the dorsal portion of the TCC, declaration of the applicant, and records of the Center, and records of the BIR or BOC.

In case of differences, reconciliation shall be undertaken by the Center.

C. *Preparation and Issuance of Revalidated TCC.* Once the application is finally approved, the SRC shall direct the TCCIAD to prepare the revalidated TCC for signature of authorized signatories. The preparation and issuance of the revalidated TCC shall be in accordance with Office Order No. 063-2003.

D. *Notification.* The Center, through the SRC, shall promptly communicate the approval or denial of the application to the applicant.

In case an application is denied due to fraud, falsification, tampering, recycling, counterfeiting, perjury, or other illegal acts, the matter shall be referred by the Center to the proper authorities.

Section 6. *TCCs Deemed Filed for Special Revalidation.* TCCs deemed filed for special revalidation shall be processed in accordance with the procedures prescribed in Section 7, 8, and 9 of this Order. TCCs deemed filed for special revalidation are the following:

A. TCCs subject of pending application for transfer, regular revalidation, replacement of lost TCC, change of name, and other applications involving the replacement of TCC, which were filed with the Center prior to August 1, 2006.

B. TCCs subject of pending applications for special revalidation under Department Order No. 19-03.

C. TCCs in the custody of the Center which are the subject of unresolved policy or legal issues.

D. TCCs issued by the Center prior to August 1, 2006 which remain unclaimed or unreleased.

No separate application for special revalidation need to be filed for TCCs deemed filed for special revalidation.

Section 7. *Revalidation of TCCs Subject of Pending Ordinary Applications.* TCCs under Section 6(A) of this Order shall be processed in accordance with existing guidelines and procedures prescribed for the processing of the application involved. Upon approval of the application involved is denied or withdrawn, the TCC shall nevertheless be replaced, if still valid and outstanding, with a new TCC in updated form.

Section 8. *Revalidation of TCCs Subject of Pending Applications for Revalidation and Unresolved Issues.* For TCCs deemed filed under Section 6(B) and 6(C) of this Order, the criteria and procedures prescribed in subsection "B," "C," and "D" of Section 5 of his Order shall be observed insofar as said criteria and procedures are applicable and have not yet been completed or undertaken.

In the case of TCCs subject of unresolved policy/legal issues, the revalidation thereof shall be filed under Section 6(D) of this Order shall be initiated only upon written request by the TCC grantee for the release or revalidation of the TCC.

Section 9. *Revalidation of Unclaimed TCCs.* The actual replacement of TCCs deemd filed under Section 6(D) of this Order shall be initiated only upon written request by the TCC grantee for the release or revalidation of the TCC.

The procedures prescribed in subsections "B," "C," and "D" of Section 5 of this Order shall be followed, and the criteria for revalidation under the same said provisions, insofar as these are relevant, shall be applied. Due effort shall be made to simplify and expedite the revalidation of unclaimed TCCs.

To expedite the processing of TCCs under Sec. 1(b) and (c) of this Order, a certification by the TCCIAD as to the fact that the TCC concerned is unclaimed/unreleased and therefore unutilized shall be endorsed to the BIR/BOC together with the recommendation for the approval revalidation.

Section 10. *Utilization of Unrevalidated and Revalidated TCCs.* Beginning August 1, 2006, the Center shall cease to accept applications for issuance of Tax Debit Memos (TDMs) for all TCCs cancelled by virtue of the special revalidation program unless the same have been revalidated.

Any application for TDM filed before August 1, 2006, however, shall continue to be processed in accordance with existing guidelines, and the corresponding TDM issued shall be allowed, for the duration of the TDM's validity period, as authority for the use of the corresponding TCC in payment of the taxpayer's outstanding tax/duty liabilities subject only to exisitng guidelines of the BIR/BOC.

Once a TCC is approved for revalidation, the same may be used, transferred nor disposed of immediately by the TCC owner, subject, only to such reasonable limitations as may be imposed by law and administrative rules and regulations in the premisses.

It is emphasized that the special revalidation does not in any way affect or alter the validity period, as provided under existing laws, of revalidated TCCs.

Section 11. *Effectivity.* This Order shall become effective immediately.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO Q. HIANSEN**
Executive Director

(PDI – Sept. 4, 2006)

7-month tax effort expected to hit 14.5%

RP inches closer to attaining tax target

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S TAX EFFORT—THE RATIO of tax collection to gross domestic product (GDP)—was estimated to have reached 14.5 percent in the seven months ending in July this year, the Department of Finance said.

The projected tax effort, which measures the government's ability to translate economic growth into tax revenues, is 2.2 percentage points better than the 12.3 percent recorded in January to July last year.

The projection, however, was still below the 14.7-percent target for 2006.

"We are inching closer to our target," Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran told reporters. "What we need to do to achieve the target is to improve on tax administration, and not really to come up with new taxes."

Beltran said the year-on-year improvement in the country's tax effort, one of the economic indicators closely monitored by credit-rating agencies, was largely attributed to the implementation of the VAT Reform law.

The VAT law, considered the centerpiece of the Arroyo administration's fiscal reform agenda, expanded the coverage of the value-added tax to include previously exempted products like electricity and oil. The law likewise raised the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent.

The struggle to meet the full-year tax effort target of 14.7 percent is tied with the tax collection performance of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which has registered a revenue shortfall in the first seven months of the year.

But Beltran said that measures to improve tax collection efficiency are already in place.

The government hopes to raise the country's tax effort back to 17 percent, which was attained in 1997 just before the Asian financial crisis.

DOF says some firms may still enjoy tax perks

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE PLANS TO cut certain industries some slack and include them on a "positive list" that may get to enjoy tax- and duty-free privileges despite government's effort to trim huge revenue losses due to generous perks.

In relaxing the proposal to rationalize fiscal incentives, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the DOF could come up with a lean number of industries that could be included on the positive list, the composition of which would be based on a study on the capability of industries to progress on its own.

"[The government] should help, but only those who really need help," Teves told reporters. "Let's say there is a wide clamor for the renewable resources industry to be included on the positive list, then we should study whether it deserves to be on the list."

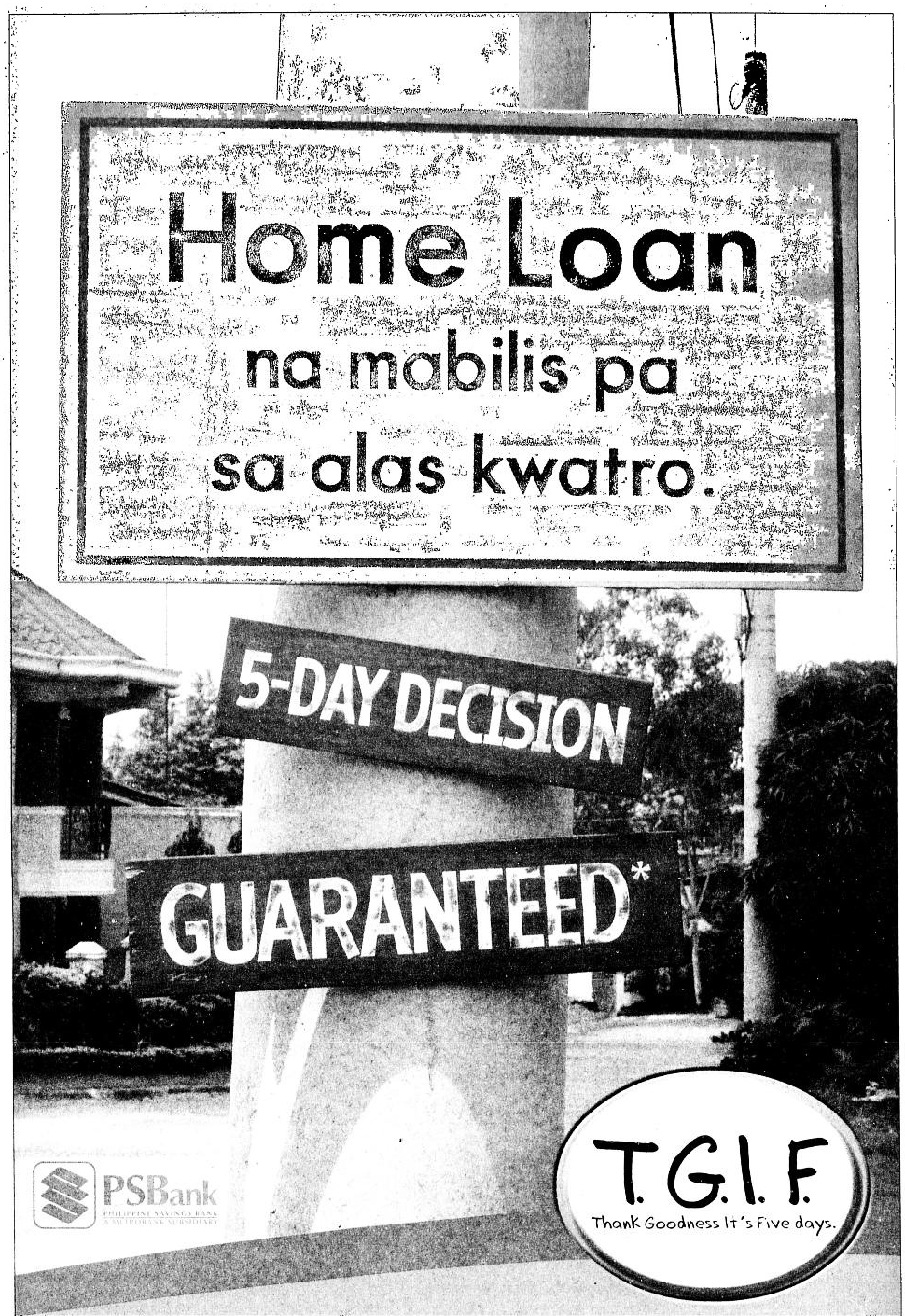
Teves said that the DOF is also willing to include other industries, aside from renewable energy and mining, on the positive list.

The plan to come up with a list of industries to be given incentives is less strict than the earlier suggestion of rationalizing fiscal incentives by limiting tax- and duty-free perks only to exporters and to businesses situated in the country's poorest provinces.

The Senate committee on ways and means, chaired by Sen. Ralph Recto, has begun drafting a bill on the rationalization of fiscal incentives and has asked the DOF for its inputs.

The bill, backed by the executive branch, is intended to help the government improve the country's economic climate by generating more taxes to cover pump-priming initiatives.

Michelle V. Remo



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Building a nation? Focus on cities

New group issues roadmap to path toward RP nationhood

By Daxim L. Lucas

IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT LACK OF UNITY is the single biggest hurdle to the Philippines' progress.

The fractured nature of local society—this lack of "nationhood"—is evident is in almost every field, from politics to business to culture.

Last week, a newly minted group called Mahal Ko ang Pilipinas went as far as to claim that the Philippines is "not yet a nation" but merely a "state."

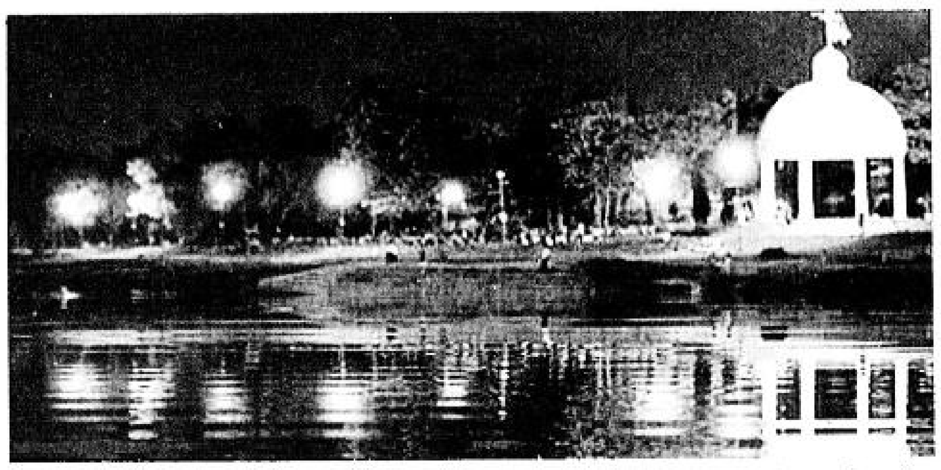
Citing the country's present ills, the group headed by former Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao said that it will take many years more for the country to develop into a nation, in the real sense of the word, if left to its natural course.

Take matters

To accelerate down the path toward nationhood, Estanislao believes the people should initiate change and take matters into their own hands, at least on the local government level.

"There is gnawing hopelessness and cynicism that are pushing Filipinos to give up on their country. We blame the President; we blame the government and its people," Estanislao said. "But we must also acknowledge that our country is also our very own responsibility."

The need for greater unity was underscored by historian and playwright Paul Dumol who said the country is still a "nation-in-progress."



MAHAL KO ang Pilipinas believes people should take matters into their own hands, at least on the local government level.

"What the country had achieved [in 1898] was to declare the creation of a Philippine state," he said. "Until today, we have yet to realize our dreaming of becoming one true nation."

More importantly, Dumol said it could take up to four generations more—at an average of 25 years per generation—under normal conditions for the Philippines to reach nationhood, as he defined it.

New roadmap (again)

To help the country along, the leaders of the multisectoral group launched what they called "Philippines 2030 Roadmap" which aims to accelerate this process toward national progress.

And how do they plan to build the nation?

Ironically, Mahal Ko ang Pilipinas believes this could be done by concentrating on individual cities first—a counter-intuitive policy often scored by critics for being city-centric, to the detriment of the rural countryside.

For Estanislao, nationhood and developing communities begin at the city level.

This "revolution" is being implemented simultaneously by anchor stakeholders, which involves 21 city governments and a coalition of sectors at both the local and national levels.

"[These] sectors, thinking together and building bridges with each other will promote the common cause of our nation," said Estanislao, who also heads the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA), a group that advocates good governance in public entities.

Their goal is no less than to achieve the "Philippine dream" of nationhood in 25 years—one generation.

Mahal Ko ang Pilipinas gathers together leaders of key sectors in society, namely the youth, academe, business, media, civic and professional organizations, the labor sector, the Church and the military.

Together with officials of local government units, the movement will map out 20- to 25-year plans of comprehensive development for the country and their respective sectors and cities.

Dream Cities

The centerpiece of the Philippines 2030 Roadmap is the "Dream Cities" project which identifies local government units at the city level whose mayors are committed to implementing the development plan.

In effect, Estanislao explained that these Dream Cities embody the ideals and goals that, if implemented on the national level, will bring the country closer to nationhood.

The ISA uses the Public Governance System (PGS) which is a version of the Harvard University-developed "balanced scorecard" used for evaluating corporations, to evaluate and select Dream Cities.

According to ISA officials, the PGS method allows local constituents to participate in public governance, while ensuring that programs can be continued regardless of who is elected mayor of the Dream City.

So far, eight model cities have already been declared PGS-compliant after passing the group's stringent review.

These are: Naga City, Marikina City, Calbayog City, Iloilo City, San Fernando City in La Union, San Fernando City in Pampanga, Sorsogon City and Tagbilaran City.

Thirteen other cities are at various stages of review by the group, while Dagupan, Iriga, Ligao, Panabo and Tugegarao Cities have been newly initiated into the review process.

The initiative is backed by the League of Cities of the Philippines which recently signed a memorandum of agreement with the ISA to have six to nine cities around the country undergo the PGS evaluation process every six months.

Skeptical observers may roll their eyes at yet another attempt by concerned citizens to put the country in what they believe is the "right" direction.

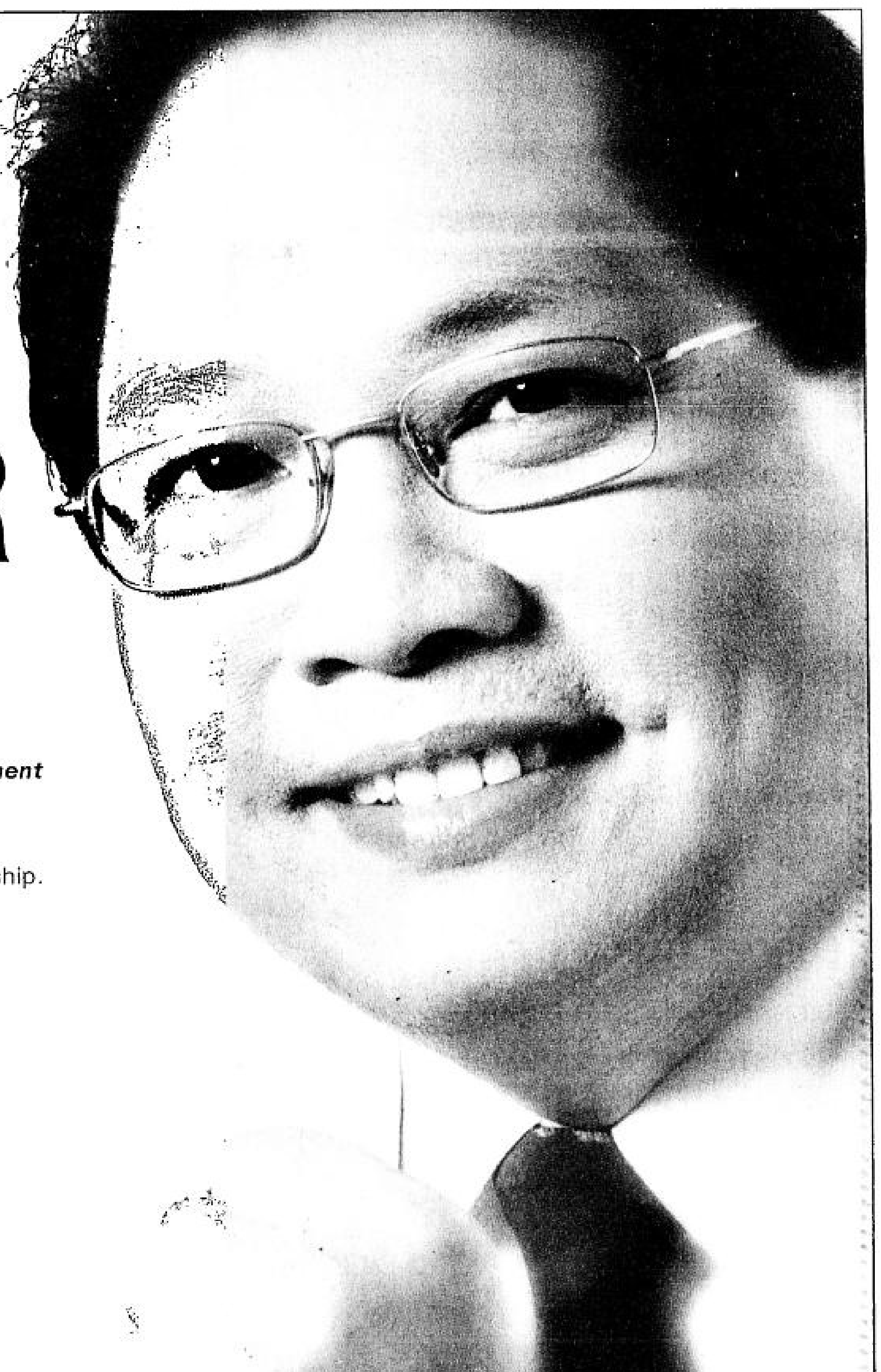
But Mahal Ko ang Pilipinas organizers are unfazed.

Estanislao conceded that the group's initiative is only one of many proposed solutions to the national malaise, but stressed its uniqueness since it is open to all stakeholders who want to participate and non-partisan.

"We don't claim that we have The Answer," he said.

Ortigas & Co. chief operating officer Rex C. Drilon II, who is also an ISA fellow, said the group's roadmap has found acceptance with all the country's main business groups even as their beliefs lie on different ends of the political spectrum.

"We have to move forward regardless of who the occupant of Malacañang is," he said.



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No grand lobby in this hotel

New business-oriented hotel puts in more meeting rooms

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THINGS ARE LOOKING UP IN the business sector with the peso strengthening and inflation staying at single-digit levels despite rising oil prices.

Few could be happier than Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila in Ortigas, which is positioning itself as a primary destination of corporate travelers.

Crowne Plaza general manager Paul Rene Lee says the hotel's facilities, design and services were designed specifically to suit the business travelers' unique needs.

For one thing, the Art Deco-inspired rooms are home offices with work stations and broadband access to the Internet.

This means that corporate travelers can do their work in the comfort and privacy of their own rooms.

The rooms also feature bathrooms where the bathtub is separate from the rest for that extra bit of comfort.

"After working all day, what guests want is to just relax and soak in the bathtub," he says.

For small gatherings, Crowne Plaza offers function rooms and meeting rooms in its business center equipped with everything a traveler will need, such as office supplies, computers, reading material and some secretarial service.

Lee says Crowne Plaza believes there is room for a business-oriented hotel in the Philippines because of the growing number of travelers coming into the Philippines for business.

They are typically in the country for less than a week and are just here to do what needs to be done and then fly off to the next destination.

This kind of traveler wants efficiency and comfort above all, and care more for business facilities than they do ambience or grand designs.

He says this explains why Crowne Plaza does not have a grand lobby, but does have meeting and function rooms.

But for those with a bigger budget, Crowne Plaza has Crowne Club Floors where guests have access to a private lounge serving complimentary continental breakfast, afternoon tea and evening cocktails.

FOOD is a priority at Crowne Plaza

PAUL Lee, manager, Crowne Plaza

He says a focused strategy will work well for Crowne Plaza in the long-run because it will develop recall in a specific market—the business traveler.

"Other hotels want to be all things to all people and so the business element is just mixed with the others," he says, "We believe in just focusing on one area."

He says business hotels are the fastest growing in the hotel indsutry, particularly in Asia Pacific.

China, which is siphoning investments from all over the world, is a big factor as it is attracting investors to check out the region, including the Philippines.

Crowne Plaza in Ortigas officially opened its doors to the public in July of last year and has 265 rooms.

It is part of the Intercontinental group and the fourth hotel under the Gokongwei group of companies.

He says the hotel has been well received by the market and the group is open to the possibility of putting up more in the future.

"Expansion is possible because the confidence level in the Philippines is quite high," he says.

That can only mean more business for Crowne Plaza.

ART Deco describes the new hotel's interiors.

CROWNE Plaza offers travelers what they need to do their business in RP.

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Firm creates new products for OFWs' real estate needs

FRESH FROM THE RECENT BOOM IN business in 2005, Earth+Style Corp., a lifestyle property developer for the middle income market, remains bullish with its performance in the coming year as it expands its market to include the Overseas Filipino Worker.

"The growth of the realty development industry in the past years has been phenomenal, with realty prices appreciating by 200 percent," says Jacinto C. Ng Jr., COO of the realty firm. "Now we can boost our efforts in communicating and offering our products to the OFW sector, whose ultimate dream is to provide an ideal home for their loved ones," he adds.

Ng reveals that the growing demand for property has become fueled by the influx of dollars brought in by Filipinos working abroad, now numbering about 8 million. These "kababayans," as his company calls them, possess an amazing purchasing power that is approximated to reach $12 billion by year end.

A big developer in the south, Earth+Style boosted its efforts even further to improve upon the properties and communities that it has built in the Cavite and Laguna areas. Earth+Style tries to incorporate community enhancements that create a nurturing environment and promote a change in lifestyle for those living within these communities they develop.

Earth+Style's homes ranges from P500,000 to P5 million.

"The middle income market now has evolved into a very intelligent, very critical market. This is mainly because our Kababayans have already experienced what the first-world countries have to offer and they want the same for their families here," Ng states. Noting such changes, Earth+Style provides innovations, such as price options, quality amenities and lifestyle enhancements to further address the market's needs.

It is the thrust of the company to create new lifestyle categories for their products such as the township developments for the Earth+Style Villages, the innovative designs of Earth+Style Homes and the family-starter residence choices Earth+Style Sundays. The company has also strengthened its marketing communications for 2006 by introducing movie star Claudine Barretto as its official endorser.

Earth+Style has established a remittance network through a bank for direct payment of monthly amortization from abroad. This means the OFWs no longer have to pay extra remittance fees to keep up with their property payments.

The company is working towards providing insurance packages for the OFWs and their families. This insurance will ensure the loans for the houses will be paid for should anything happen to the OFW-borrower.

Earth+Style established Earth+Style Eureka, the referral partners program that targets people outside the organization and want to earn extra through referrals.

"The planned remittance system, the insurance packages and Earth+Style Eureka are only three of the additional programs that we hope to provide our Kababayans," states Ng.

For queries, call 638-85-58 or 0918-88-STYLE or visit www.earthandstyle.com.

Doing well in real estate game

REAL ESTATE IS A DEMANDING, cutthroat business, as big, established developers are now competing with small upstarts who want a piece of the real estate pie, and the market now inundated with various projects. With more and more players coming into the field, potential buyers are besieged with a variety of options and are now extra wary on where to invest their hard-earned money—in turn making real estate sales a tough job to handle.

But selling the many projects of Ayala Land Premier came easily for Anna Ortega, Jonathan Soliven, and Patti Manuel-Go, members of Ayala Land Sales Inc., as well as for Lita Valdes of Ayala Land Premier elite broker's circle. The four property specialists were recently named the top producers of the Ayala Westgrove Heights development, selling the most number of lots in Ayala Land Premier project.

While the four property specialists have found their niche in the lucrative yet highly competitive world of real estate sales, they all came from varied and off-tangent educational and employment backgrounds.

Anna was a communications major and was all set to work for a top television network after graduation. "But I felt that job wasn't maximizing what I wanted to do," shares Anna. "I wanted to be out there, meeting and establishing relationships with people."

Jonathan, on the other hand, had stints in a local and international shipping company and even put up his own photography business before settling in his new career as an Ayala Land Premier property specialist. "While I don't think I'm a born salesman, I do enjoy my career in sales," relates Jonathan.

Patty was a practicing psychologist before she decided to shift careers and join Ayala Land Premier. "I actually got enticed to this line of work because my brother is also a property specialist for Ayala Land," says Patty.

Lita was already working for Ayala Land Inc. as the administrator of the Makati Stock Exchange building before quitting her hectic job to go into real estate. "I actually started my career in real estate selling lots in Ayala Alabang, way, way back," relates Lita.

The great broker-client relationship the four specialists have been able to establish has also helped them a great deal in becoming successful sellers. "I felt I had a great network, and the selling even enhanced that ability to mix and associate with all kinds of people and build relationships," relates Anna.

"For me, establishing relationships, building trust, confidence and goodwill, are key to becoming a great seller," advises Lita.

For queries, call 728-7000.

AGSB Rregistrar Dr. Cesar A. Mansibang, provincial superior of the Philippine Society of Jesus Rev. Fr. Daniel Huang, PLDT chair Manny V. Pangilinan, Gawad Kalinga executive director Tony Meloto, ADMU president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres and AGSB Dean Dr. ALfredo Bengzon

Bringing back faith in the country

AFTER 40 YEARS OF BRINGING business education to a new level, the Ateneo Graduate School of Business reaffirmed its unconventional and distinctive value proposition that "our country is our business."

The school kicked off its yearlong 40th anniversary celebration with an Ateneo Business Leadership Forum headlined by Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, PLDT chair Manny V. Pangilinan and Gawad Kalinga executive director Tony P. Meloto. With the theme, "Take a Chance on Ourselves, Invest in the Philippines," the forum drew an SRO crowd of top executives and business leaders.

A simultaneous live webcast of the event from the jam-packed Ateneo Professional Schools (APS) Auditorium in Rockwell Center to AGSB off-campus sites in Cebu, Sta. Rosa, Laguna; and Subic brought in an even larger audience. Each speaker inspired hope from sharing their own experiences in working in the country and for the country, be it in business, government or through personal commitment.

PHILAM Life CEO Jose Cuisia and AGSB professor Verne Quiazon

PHILIPPINE Product Safety and Quality Foundation Inc. chair Meneleo Carlos and ADMU Board of Trustees member Ed David

ADMU president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres and AGSB Dean Dr. Alfredo RA Bengzon hand over a plaque of appreciation to Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

AGSB Dean Dr. Alfredo RA Bengzon, an alumnus of the school himself, declared that the forum aimed to proclaim that "our country is our business" to all sectors of society and mobilize people to work at nation-building. In concluding the proceedings, Ateneo de Manila University president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres reiterated this call and commended the speakers for their shining example.

Equally impressed were guests such as Philamlife CEO Jose Cuisia, BPI president Aurelio Montinola III, First Philippine Industrial Park president Hector Dimacali, Allied Bank president Rey Maclang, Philippine International Trading Corp. president Roberto Pagdanganan, St. Peter Life Plan CEO York Vitangco, SSS office of the chairman EA-V Alfredo Parungao, EVA Air GM Jack Yu, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority deputy administrator Ramon Agregado, Vinta Systems Inc. CEO Augusto Lagman, Yehey.com CEO Donald Lim and First Sumiden Circuits president Dan Lachica. Indeed, there is no better time to take the AGSB call to heart than now.

Board of Directors

Corporate Securities Info
Raul J. Palabrica

AS POINTED OUT IN A PREVIOUS ARTICLE, the Code of Corporate Governance, which the Securities and Exchange Commission issued in 2002, considers the board of directors as the linchpin of good corporate administration.

Under existing rules, the board should consist of at least five, but not more than 15, members who must all be stockholders.

For public companies, however, the Code has an additional rule on the composition of their board.

A company is considered "public" if it sells registered securities, or its shares are traded in the stock market, or has assets worth at least P50 Million and 200 or more stockholders who own no less than 100 shares each.

These companies are obliged to elect at least two independent directors or such number of independent directors that constitute at least 20 percent of the entire board membership, whichever is lesser.

The Code looks to the independent directors as one of the means by which the board can "provide an independent check on management."

For the same reason, the SEC encourages corporations other than public companies to make provisions in their by-laws for independent directors.

Qualifications

Although the minimum requirement for membership in the board is ownership of one share of stock, the Code wants corporations to improve on that qualification standard.

The additional criteria for directorship may include educational attainment, adequate competency and understanding of the business, age, integrity or probity, and assiduousness.

It is up to the corporations concerned, depending on the nature of their business and peculiar requirements, to spell out in their by-laws the nature or scope of the added qualifications.

As long as the standards are reasonable and will not unduly deprive minority stockholders of their right to be elected to the board, corporations have a wide latitude in determining who should and should not be directors.

Aside from tightening up on the qualifications of directors, the Code expanded the list of the acts that would disqualify a person from membership in the board.

Disqualifications

Before, the position of director was declared off limits only to persons convicted of an offense punishable by imprisonment for more than six years, or a violation of the corporate rules committed within five years prior to his election as director.

The Code added six causes that justify barring a person from becoming a director.

The companies covered by the Code have no room for persons who have been convicted, regardless of the penalty imposed, of any crime involving the purchase or sale of securities, or arising from his conduct as underwriter, broker dealer or investment adviser.

Also unwelcome are persons found guilty of violating or abetting the violation of any of the laws enforced by the SEC or Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

If the illegal act involved does not fall squarely under any of the enumeration, the Code has provided for a catch-all provision to cover that possibility.

It states that the disqualification also applies to those convicted (judicially or administratively) of "an offense involving moral turpitude, fraud, embezzlement, theft, estafa, counterfeiting, misappropriation, forgery, bribery, false oath, perjury or other fraudulent acts or transgressions."

This provision virtually summarizes the contents of the Revised Penal Code!

Temporary bar

The task of policing the ranks of the directors does not rest solely on the shoulders of the government regulatory agencies. The Code expects the directors, acting as a collegial body, to monitor the activities of their peers.

There are seven instances when the board may temporarily disqualify a director from attending or participating in its official activities.

The ban may be imposed, for instance, if a director refuses to fully disclose the extent of his business interests as required by the Securities Regulation Code and its implementing rules and regulations.

The disqualification shall be in force until he complies with those disclosure requirements.

Also, a director may be barred from being voted to office again in the succeeding stockholders' meeting in case he was absent or failed to participate for whatever reason in more than 50 percent of the regular or special board meetings, or any 12 month period during his incumbency.

If a director does not have the time or enthusiasm to attend the board's sessions for one reason or another, then it is only fair that his seat be given to somebody who can actively participate in the board's deliberations.

By expanding the rules on qualifications to and disqualifications from board membership, the Code makes it clear that good corporate governance is a top-down affair, that is, those at the corporate helm should set the example for the rest of the corporation.

More about the duties and responsibilities of directors in succeeding articles of this column. *(Feedback to <rpalabrica@inquirer. com. ph>)*

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A Leader's Way

From page B2-4

The Commitment Test—"Are the influencers affirming or committing?"

Verbal affirmation is encouraging, but when you begin to confront the obstacles of a new initiative, you had better be sure the influencers behind you are willing to fight with you in the trenches.

The Resources Test—"Will the influencers provide what is needed?"

Many leaders make the mistake of chasing after attractive opportunities, only to be hung out to dry when a major donor or investor backs out of their pledged assistance. Can you count on the support of the influencers behind you?

For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please email us at maxwell@inspire.ph or call 813-2049/2732 and ask for Jesi or Bing. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell. God bless!

Tests of timing

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

IN MY EXPERIENCE, THE TOUGHEST LAW of leadership to teach is the Law of Timing.

As an intuitive skill, timing is intangible, which makes it extremely difficult to explain. Many veteran leaders describe their timing for major decisions with phrases such as, "I had a gut feeling the moment was right," or "I sensed we couldn't wait any longer."

For an aspiring leader in search of answers, this lack of concreteness can be more than a little frustrating.

The goal of both this lesson and the next week's column is to de-mystify the Law of Timing by identifying six areas of awareness that affect timely decision-making.

Awareness powers a leader's internal clock so that he or she can exercise the right timing in decision-making. In this edition of LW, we'll unpack three of the six areas of the environment to which a leader must be attuned for proper timing.

Within each area of awareness, we'll also look at tests that can be applied to assure the potential success of time-sensitive decisions.

Timing's areas of awareness

1. Awareness of the Needs Around You

Leaders interact in an environment abounding with needs. Customers, partners, and co-workers all have needs.

Needs are all around us, but they are also within us. Leaders are able to look beyond their own needs to sense and respond to the needs of others.

The Listening Test—"Am I aware of other people's needs?"

The philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "If a man can make a better book, preach a better sermon, or make a better mousetrap than his neighbor, though he builds his house in the woods, the world will make a beaten path to his door."

But Emerson was wrong! You must beat a path to the customer's door to find out what he wants and needs. Stunning innovation and brilliantly designed new products are only part of the answer. Fortunately, Mr. Emerson made his living as a philosopher—not as a company president.

The Values Test—"Who am I?"

The legendary Greek philosopher, Socrates, implored his pupils to "Know thyself."

As true now as it was for the ancient Greeks, leaders clarify the needs around them when they get in touch with their deeply held beliefs and convictions.

The Mission Test—"What is my purpose?"

Discern the connection between the needs around you and the calling within you. At this intersection, you will make decisions that make a difference.

The Priority Test—"Should I do this?"

Eradicating world poverty, widening the roads causing traffic congestion in your neighborhood, and finding copy machines that jam less frequently are all valid needs, and each may resonate within you.

However, with limited time and resources, leaders must prioritize attention and effort to be effective.

In the words of W.E.B Dubois, "Nature makes men narrow in order to give them force."

The Reality Test—"Can I do this?"

Before taking action, a leader must honestly assess present resources to determine whether or not the timing is realistic to pursue the remedy for a perceived need.

2. Awareness of the Reality Before You

Decisions have consequences—positive and negative, intended and unintended. Leaders with a flair for timing are able to foresee the implications of their courses of action.

The Murphy's Law Test—"What could possibly go wrong? Could I accept the consequences?"

Murphy's Law says that if something can go wrong, it probably will. When assessing the ramifications for decisions, leaders must take into account the repercussions of failure.

The Common Sense Test—"Does this opportunity make sense or am I trying to make sense out of it?"

Opportunities can be alluring, and CE's at the highest level have been known to fall in love with impractical and costly pet projects. Plain common sense can be the best deterrent to far-fetched opportunities.

The Preparation Test—"Am I prepared to do this?"

Consider the sacrifices involved before jumping into an opportunity. Overcommitment is one of the most energy draining and stress-inducing flaws of a leader.

However, keep in mind that preparation is not total consensus or knowing all of the answers before starting. All too often, would-be decision-makers keep collecting, analyzing, and reanalyzing information, hoping for that one last convincing detail that will dictate the correct choice.

Former secretary of state and four-star general, Colin Powell, in a Time magazine interview, said that if zero represents no data and 100 represents all of the data needed to make a decision, he usually waits until he's at about 60, then he uses gut instincts, intuition and personal experience to make the choice.

The Option Test—"Do I increase or decrease my options by waiting?"

Will the passage of time shrink available options or create new ones? Sometimes, the opportunity becomes narrower and more difficult to pursue in the future. However, other opportunities expand in the light of new developments.

The Deadline Test—"When is the best time to make the right decision?"

Quite simply, several opportunities come with a "take it or leave it" tag. Time dictates that the opportunity immediately be grasped or lost. With other opportunities, time diminishes their value. As Lee Iacocca said, "The right decision is the wrong decision if it's made to late."

3. Awareness of the Influencers Behind You

Every organization has key influences that must be on board in order for pivotal decisions to be made. To excel at the art of timing, leaders must court the support of these influencers.

The Respect Test—"Have I earned the influencers' respect?"

Everyone has the right to speak, but you have to earn the right to be heard. Do your words carry the weight of respect?

A LEADER'S/ B2-3

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BUSINESS Monday

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Explore gold mine in medical tourism

Learning from the experiences and strategies of Thailand, India, Singapore

By Eduardo A. Morato
Professor, Asian Institute of Management

THAILAND, INDIA, SINGAPORE and Malaysia are aggressively pursuing opportunities offered by medical tourism. Revenue-wise, these four countries generated $3 billion in 2005 alone. Leading the pack is Thailand, which claimed one million health and wellness tourists from its huge tourism base of 13 million annually. Some 350,000 of these health tourists patronized the services of Bumrungrad Hospital. Known initially for its plastic and cosmetic surgery, Thailand has expanded its offerings to other medical services—health screening, elective treatments and common surgeries. Some 30 other hospitals in Thailand specialize in treating foreigners.

What India did

India began back in the 80s by attracting many of its own nationals and citizens of neighboring countries, such as Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Nepal. Apollo Hospital, a strategic forerunner in world class health care, positioned itself to treat patients for critical ailments (e.g. heart bypass).

Apollo provided incentives for Indian doctors practicing abroad to return to the homeland and serve its huge population. Since then, many other top-notch hospitals followed suit. In 1992, India's National Health Policy declared that rendering services to patients of foreign origin would be considered export earnings and made eligible for all fiscal incentives.

India introduced the medical visa as a facilitating document.

Singapore's strategy

For Singapore, medical services were provided to 350,000 tourists in 2005, earning $ 915 million in revenues.

About four percent of Singapore's tourists sought medical services, of which 70 percent came from Indonesia and Malaysia. Singapore is also serving patients from the United Kingdom, Japan and India. In terms of service focus, Singapore is recognized for its "highly intensive" health services requiring state of the art technology and medical expertise.

Malaysia's tack

Malaysia attracted 400,000 medical tourists in 2005, earning $400 million. Malaysia is also oriented towards health screening, elective treatments and common surgeries. Its foreign patients include Indonesians, Japanese and Australians.

The Philippines

In the Philippines, medical tourism is still at its infancy stage. Several of the more well-known hospitals are attracting patients from Micronesia and the Pacific Islands as well as *balikbayans* familiar with local health services. The specialty clinics focused on eye, dental and cosmetic surgeries or treatments. The clinics claim that 10 percent to 15 percent of their patients are foreigners, a good number of whom are expatriates assigned to the Philippines.

St. Luke's Medical Center started a medical referral program from nearby countries in 1995. In 1996, its chair, Robert Kuan, envisioned the Philippines as a medical care destination for Asia. He wanted St. Luke's to be one of the top five medical centers in Asia by 2010, targeting the broader Asian market. To solidify this effort, St. Luke's invested a significant amount to obtain international accreditation, opening the doors for international HMO portability or the ability to tap the medical insurance systems of foreign countries.

ASIAN Hospital will identify key markets for medical tourism and plans to duplicate the operations that made Bumrungrad of Thailand successful.

A relative newcomer in quality medical services in the Philippines, Asian Hospital sold 40 percent of its shares to Bumrungrad Hospital in 2005. In an interview with Dr Joel Beltran, director for business development, Asian Hospital will identify key markets for medical tourism and plans to duplicate the operations that made Bumrungrad successful. Bumrungrad itself is investing in strategic Asian countries for hospital services. As for Asian Hospital, its current foreign clientele hails from Guam and Palau.

Dr. Belran says that Philippine hospitals must endeavor to become more price competitive because Thailand and India are relatively less expensive. A major cost disadvantage of the Philippines is the price of medicine, which comprises a substantial percentage of total costs.

Dr. Beltran believes that customer servicing and backroom support must be upgraded significantly. He claims that medical tourism starts with highly sophisticated IT-enabled services. Next comes the air and land transport system, ambulance services, security safeguards and, possibly, tour services for interested patients and their companions. In Bumrungrad, there are separate apartelles for companions and a separate building for various clinics and specializations.

One key difference between the operations of Bumungrad and Philippine hospitals is that the former centrally supervises the clinics and services of its doctors, while the latter allows the doctors to manage their own clinics. Asian Hospital would like to promote the hospital as a whole organization rather than as an amalgam of separate doctors. Patients must want to avail of its services because it is a top quality institution. This means uplifting and standardizing the services of the hospital across the board.

Specialty clinics

Opportunities in specialty clinics also abound, particularly in eye, dental and cosmetic treatments. An interview with Dr. Juan Nanagas, assistant medical director and administrator of Asian Eye Institute (AEI), shed some light. About 10 percent of AEI's customers are foreigners, including resident expatriates, Micronesians, Guamanians, Indonesians and the rising Korean community. Overseas Filipinos are prime targets. AEI concentrates on lasik treatments and cataract procedures. Its medical tourism program is a partnership with Rajah Tour International. Dr. Nanagas recommends several critical strategies for the Philippines to exploit the full potentials of medical tourism. These include investing in facilities and equipment that meet international standards.

The country must improve its tourism infrastructure and support services. The quality of education for doctors, nurses, therapists and technologists must be raised significantly and assessed regularly. Dedicated facilities for long term patient care and recuperation must be provided.

Finally, hospitals and clinics must seek international accreditation or its local equivalent.

The entrepreneurial gold mines for medical tourism are there for the mining but Philippine hospitals and clinics must internalize the strict international standards by which the country's global and Asian competitors abide by.

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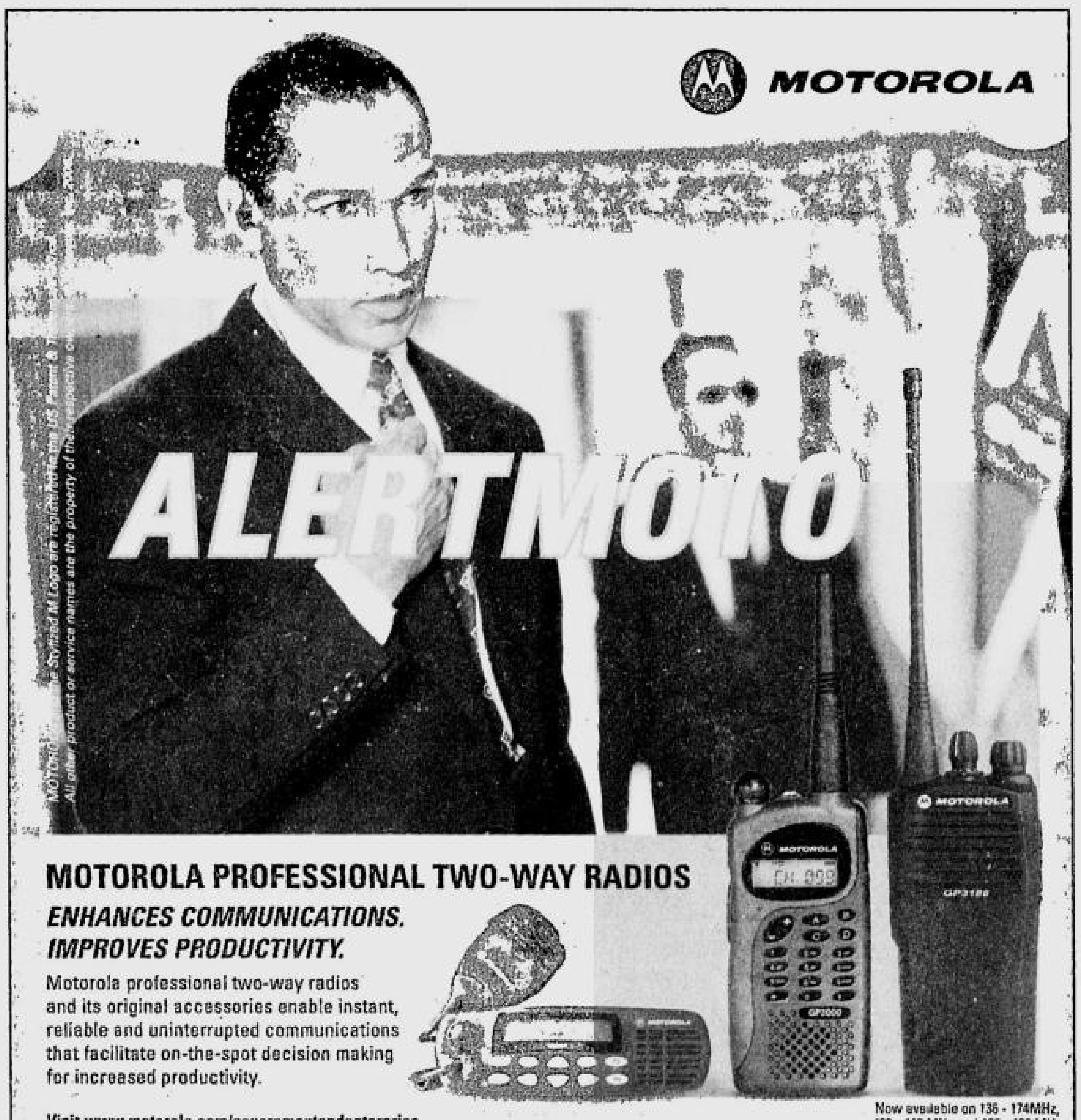

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Negros making name for fine furniture

By Jeffrey Lee
Contributor

FURNITURE by Art Energy PHILIP LOYOLA

IN THEIR OWN WAY, NEGRENSE FURNITURE and furnishings manufacturers are making their mark in this industry that is dominated by Cebu, which practically is one big happy furniture family.

On Sept. 22-26, at the much-awaited 21st annual trade fair of the Association of Negros Producers (ANP), called "Negros! Negros!" at Rockwell Center, Makati City, the best furniture and furnishing products of Negros will be showcased along with Negros' other excellent products in fashion and fashion accessories, food, and gifts and houseware.

The furniture and furnishings producers of Negros are challenged by the creative and artistic advances, and export inroads, of their counterparts in Cebu, and are coming out with brilliant and functional furniture concepts.

Examples are Gigi Campos of Reeds & Weeds, Jaime Chan of Golden Furnishings, Fernando Gonzales of Johanna's Export, Karl Aguila of Atelier Aguila, and the younger ones: Fely Callao of Arte de Negros, Liezel Alanis of Woods & Twist, and Cathy Hagad of Art Energy.

The modest beginnings of these entrepreneurs are a typical Negrense story. These enterprises were born of the sugar crisis in the '80s that devastated the economy of Negros, then dependent on this one crop. The handful of women, wives of the hacenderos, who pioneered in these beautiful and profitable crafts that involve their communities, are looking forward to a better growth in its third decade.

One of them is Joji Locsin of Tumandoc Crafts Industries. Locsin started in 1987 with a store carrying pandan baskets from the swampy areas of Pulupandan south of Bacolod and terracotta jars from the north. "I fell in love with these products," she says, "and I wanted to promote them."

In 1994, several years after she had joined the ANP—"I practically grew up with ANP," she says—she realized that (1) maintaining product quality often requires that she make the products herself, and (2) that to better market her products she needed to expose them in trade fairs.

Today she does marvellous laminated furniture and furnishings, including stupendous wall decors, head boards, cabinets, and luminа lighting, that make use of the most common and unexpected materials like leaves of santol and acacia, banana barks, bamboo twigs, labhang (rice hull), baraguban (coconut spikelets), sugarcane pulp, gogo bark, and whatever makes for rich visual contrast when mixed with others. Lately she's also been doing inlaying, sans lamination.

Locsin is proud of the high-gloss finish of her products, similar to the lacquered pieces of Thailand, which appeal to a higher-end market in Europe, US, the Middle East and Asia (including China). Three years ago, she was exporting 60 percent of her products, but last year the greater bulk went to the domestic market.

"I want my products to be appreciated by locals. We deserve access to our own best products," she says.

The ANP annual trade show "Negros! Negros!" at the Rockwell Center, has the theme "The Gifts of Life." Says this year's chair, Mary Ann Colmenares: "It's what you will want to have for yourself, like a gift, and what buyers will want to order, in bulk." Adds ANP president Cristina Gaston: "It's the best we can do with our available resources, but much better than anyone else could."

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World of Warcraft is online game to beat, says research firm

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

WITH MORE THAN 2 MILlion subscribers from the North American and European markets and another 5 million subscribers from the Chinese market alone, it would be difficult for any massively multiplayer online game (MMOG) to beat the record set by Blizzard's World of Warcraft (WoW).

Video game research group DFC Intelligence said in a recent report that while MMOGs are proliferating in many countries, especially in Asia, WoW was able to secure more than 7 million players worldwide, more than any other MMOG.

This figure also affirmed that the game developer's reputation for creating quality games was an important factor in WoW's success, as Blizzard was the same company that brought the Diablo series, Warcraft series and Starcraft, the last two being employed as part of international game competitions such as the annual World Cyber Games.

The company said that even until now, Blizzard continues to introduce new content into WoW, which keeps subscribers interested in playing. It also pointed out the difficulty of replicating Blizzard's Battle.Net online service that has experienced tremendous user growth and ever-increasing complicated operations.

DFC Intelligence also said that piracy of Blizzard games also had indirect positive impact on WoW since many of their previous titles, especially Warcraft III and Starcraft, were among the most pirated games in Asia, increasing brand recognition.

Nonetheless, DFC Intelligence noted that most success stories in the MMOG space came from targeting niche markets unlike WoW that targeted a worldwide appeal. Game developers and distributors should look at scaling into more feasible and profitable market segments of the online gaming industry. If an MMOG becomes successful and starts to produce "dumb money" then it would be time to expand from the original niche market.

A previous DFC Intelligence study showed that the worldwide MMOG industry would grow to $13 billion by 2011, up from $3.4 billion in 2005. This would be driven by increasing home broadband connection, higher PC usage and use of more next-generation game consoles.

Likewise, revenues would also come from advertising wherein companies do in-game advertising.

Not enough. . .

From page B3-4

time," Tuaño said.

Although he said surveying for new data would take some time, it would still provide a better picture of how ICT is used among Filipinos and how government would respond to specific needs of different regions.

The NSCB admitted that there has not been a comprehensive data collection on ICT use in the Philippines. In order to solve this, the NCSB forwarded proposals to include several ICT-related items for the board's quarterly economic surveys on residential and commercial establishments.

Likewise, the NSCB would be including ICT data sets for the Philippine Statistical Development Plan 2005-2010 to get more comprehensive data on ICT usage.

"We need to know what the numbers are when it comes to ICT use because that will improve the government's approach in solving the digital divide," Tuaño said.

Distance. . .

From page B3-4

predominantly female and 71.4 percent were on-campus students while 58.1 percent learned through UPOU.

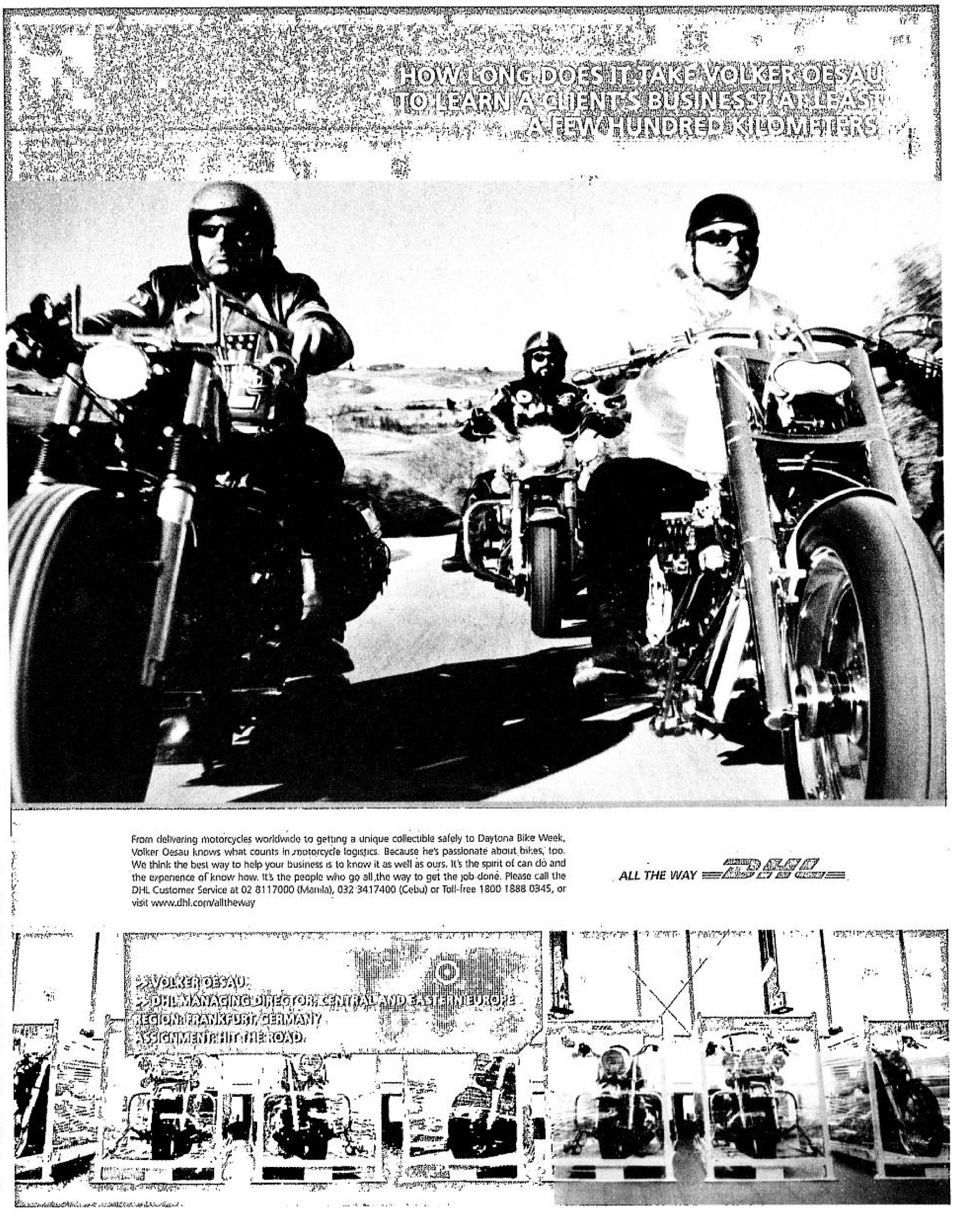
The UP OVCAA study also pointed out that the distance learning group had more married students at 71 percent, compared to just 26.6 percent among residential students. This showed that married individuals opted to take distance education to also spend time with their families.

Likewise, the study also showed that 58.1 percent of UPOU students taking up MHA and MPH were from regions outside Metro Manila while UP Manila registered 48.1 percent of students coming from other regions.

UPOU students are required to have face-to-face interaction with their professors and advisors once a month.

UPOU is looking to develop an online learning module for both MPH and MHA. The rest of UPOU's courses are delivered via online distance learning mode.

The report can be found at UPOU website at http://www.upou.org/.



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Editor **Leo Magno**

Not enough data to solve digital divide in RP

Alexander Villafania
Contributor

THE SOLUTION TO THE DIGITAL divide in the Philippines will be very difficult to find because there are no reliable data on ICT (information and communications technology) usage that could form the basis for coming up with programs that would try to solve it.

This was the message given by an economics professor and an executive from the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) during a workshop on ICT policies at the Ateneo de Manila University.

University of the Philippines Economics Lecturer and former director of the National Anti-Poverty Commission Philip Arnold Tuaño said in a presentation that the government should include in their statistical surveys the impact of ICT in the Philippines and the use of related technologies among Filipinos.

Tuaño's presentation titled "Locating the Digital Divide in the Philippines," commissioned by the Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA), used older data gathered by the National Statistics Office.

"There are no new data that we can use to specifically target the digital divide because these events can change very fast over

NOT/ B3-3

Distance learners are like regular students: study

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

THERE IS VERY LITTLE DIFference in the quality of learning received by distance education students and regular students, according to a study commissioned by the University of the Philippines Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (UP-OVCAA).

The study, conducted by the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU), covered the 2005 graduates of the Master in Public Health (MPH) and Master in Hospital Administration (MHA), both delivered as on-campus courses in UP Manila and also as distance education subjects by the UP-OU.

The report showed that the grade average between the on-campus and distance learning graduates was at 1.61 (Grade 1 being the highest).

The course graduates were

DISTANCE/ B3-3

Introducing the Intel® Core™2 Duo:

Multitask with Reckless Abandon

The Digital Revolution

A fundamental change is happening with entertainment - it's going digital. Traditional photography is a relic of the past, with digital cameras today the norm, movies and music can be accessed and downloaded over broadband internet. There is no denying that the digital revolution is here and now.

Compared to the productivity and work tools of yesterday, consumers are now demanding more processing power as they run more and more demanding entertainment and communications applications on their PCs. Much of this is down to the demands placed on the processors in the PCs. It is usual for consumers to be simultaneously checking emails, chatting on an instant messenger and looking up the sporting results over the Internet, all while listening to music stored on the computer. At the same time, the computer could be downloading a video to be watched later and running background applications such as Internet security and firewalls. This level of multi-tasking requires powerful top end processor power. The PC has grown from a productivity tool into a media, information and entertainment portal. This has led to a move of the technology from the study into the living room.

The increasing adoption of such applications has been driven not purely by the affordability of such technology, but consumers' ability to experience entertainment "on their own terms". Consumers are looking for a more convenient solution to obtaining, storing and sharing digital music, movies, photos and more. What they want is convenient and easy access to a wide range of digital content, regardless of the source, across various devices and the ability to enjoy it at anytime, anywhere throughout the home where they can sit back and relax or even on mobile devices while on the go.

This new usage model is set to take off to a even higher level with the launch of Intel's second generation dual core processors, the Intel® CoreTM2 Duo for consumer desktop PCs. This is a huge leap forward in processor design delivering a performance leap not seen since the launch of the original Pentium chip some ten years ago.

The Intel Core 2 Duo processor family consists of five desktop processors tailored for business, home, workstation and enthusiast users, such as high-end gamers, and five processors for the mobile lifestyle. Containing 291 million transistors, these Intel Core 2 Duo dual core processors are designed to provide energy efficient performance yet run demanding multiple applications faster, enabling users to improve tasks such as viewing and playing high-definition video more smoothly, protecting the PC and its assets during e-commerce transactions, and provide longer battery life with sleeker and lighter notebooks.

The new processors provide as much as a 40% increase in performance and are 40 percent more energy efficient versus the best Intel® Pentium® processor. Initial PCs are available today, with more desktop and laptops arriving throughout August.

For consumers, the added performance power and energy efficiency of the Intel Core2 Duo processor not only means that they can do even more with their entertainment, it means lower-power consumption and quieter systems for the home. With the power of dual cores, the processors can manage numerous tasks faster. They also can operate more smoothly when multiple applications are running, such as writing emails while downloading music or videos and conducting a virus scan in the background.

With the Intel Core2 Duo processor, gamers can also look forward to a new level of realism in dynamic gaming, whether challenging yourself or competing with other online gamers. The ability to manage high definition graphics smoothly will deliver a whole new level to the gaming experience.

These new Core2 Duo processors are simply the best processors in the world. Whether in performance power or energy efficiency, the new generation of Intel Core2 Duo processors will give consumers control and simplicity for all their digital entertainment anytime, anywhere, and anyway they want it.

* *Why are Intel Core 2 Duo processors the world's best processors? Please visit www.intel.com/core2duo*

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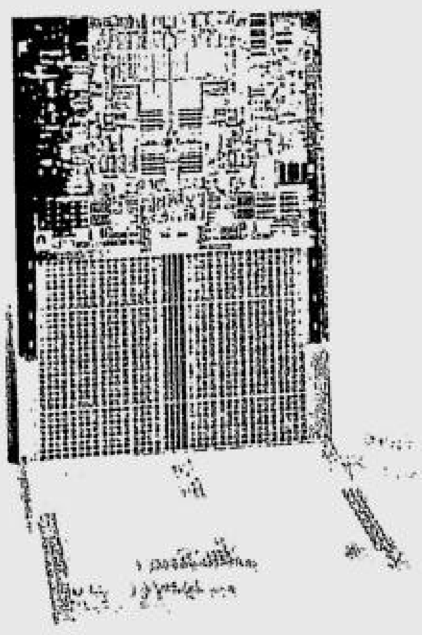

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MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS**

RIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

The stuff of everyday hero

By Constantino C. Tejero

TWO GENerations of Filipinos know the man only from books and anecdotes, yet to them Ramon del Fierro Magsaysay feels so real and seems so alive that they always invoke his name whenever they're faced with a government lacking credibility.

Magsaysay's short-lived administration as the third president of the republic has become legendary so that the man himself is now a symbol of the ideals of honesty, integrity, hard work and selflessness in government service. It is this "greatness of spirit" that has inspired the giving of the Ramon Magsaysay Award, the premier prize of Asia, often referred to as Asia's Nobel.

This year, recipients of the award are Eugenia Duran Apostol of the Philippines (Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts); Ek Sonn Chan of Cambodia (Government Service); Park Won Soon of Korea (Public Service); Sanduk Ruit of Nepal (International Understanding); Antonio Meloto of the Philippines (Community Leadership); and Arvind Kejriwal of India (Emergent Leadership).

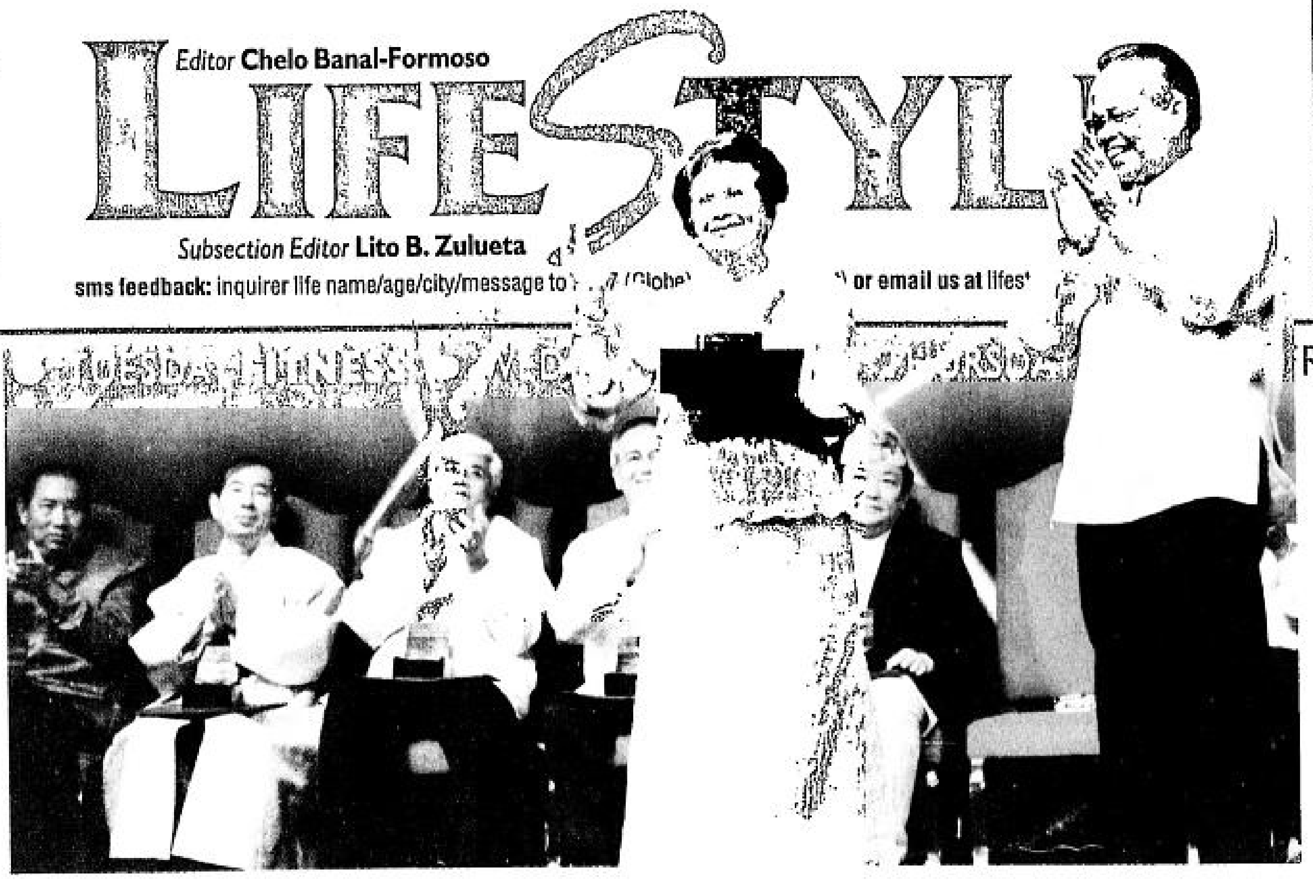
Aside from the awards, the Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Foundation keeps Magsaysay's memory and ideals alive by reintroducing him to those who "have not been privileged to know him or live under his dynamic leadership."

On Aug. 24, the award foundation, with the support of the memorial foundation, premiered the second part of Dexter Andrada's three-part film documentary "My Guy: Redux" at the Ramon Magsaysay Center at Roxas Boulevard in Manila. Titled "The Quintessential Magsaysay," this one chronicles the man's rapid rise to the highest position in the land and how he dealt with the people as a public servant.

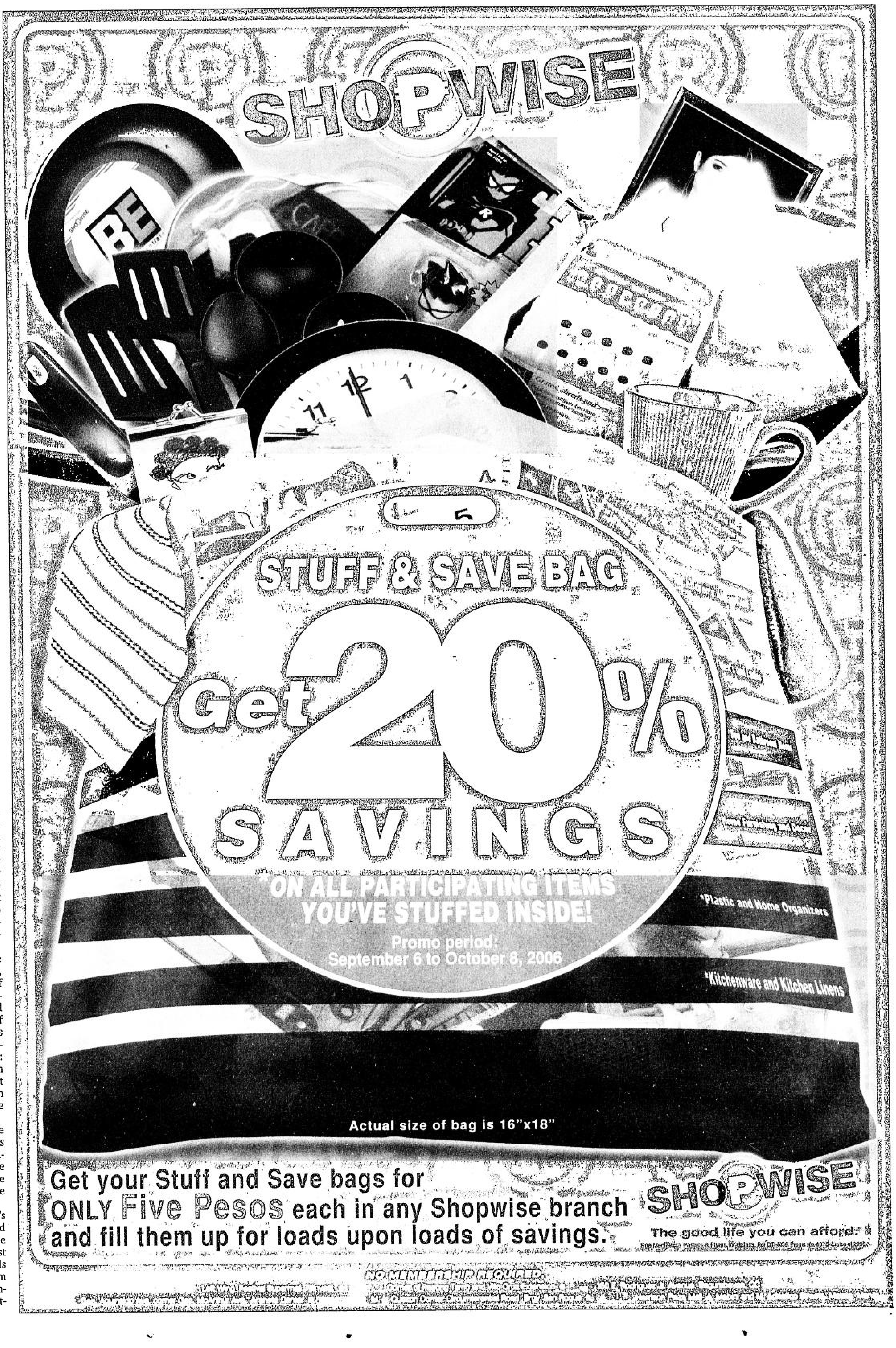
While the docu's first part (premiered in the same venue around this time last year) records Magsaysay's life from childhood to manhood in a lighthearted and frisky manner, this time the mood is somber and the rhythm stately, as the enormity of governance and the complexity of politics gradually take hold of the man.

Nicknamed "Guy" by the people to indicate he was one of them, Magsaysay was arguably the best-loved president this country has ever had. So far as has been shown, the docu has

THE STUFF/ C2



THE RAMON Magsaysay Award, known as Asia's Nobel, is given to inspiring Asians such as INQUIRER founder Eugenia Duran Apostol, here receiving it from Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN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EUGENIA Duran Apostol (right) with Gilda Cordero-Fernando and Ambeth Ocampo

PHOTOS: RUDY ESPERAS

WITH American journalist Greg Rushford

TESSIE Jose and Doris Trinidad

NATIONAL Artist F. Sionil Jose

They could have danced all night

IT WAS A WARM, NEARLY riotous night of camaraderie and impromptu ball dancing when National Artist F. Sionil Jose and the Philippine Center of the International PEN (Poets, Essayists, Novelists) held a cocktail tribute for Eugenia Duran Apostol, founding publisher of the Philippine Daily INQUIRER and this year's recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts.

Held Aug. 26 at the famous third level of the Solidaridad Bookshop on P. Faura Street—famous because it is where key debates between the country's top writers and intellectuals are held that often end in the debaters soused-up, smashed and forgetful of what the contentious issue of debate was in the first place—the cocktails saw young and senior writers alike toasting "Eggie" for her Magsaysay laurel, which everyone agreed was long overdue.

When "Manong" Frankie switched on the stereo and played standard dance tunes, Eggie and Gilda Cordero-Fernando turned the place into an instant ballroom, and nearly everyone had to oblige the two ladies for a dance or two. As always, the two showed their unmatched grace and ageless agility on the dance floor.

Joining in the dance fray were were Elmer Ordoñez, Rosario Cruz Lucero, Vicente Groyon, Jose Victor Torres, Greg Rushford, Doris Trinidad, Lorna Kalaw Tirol, Isagani Yambot, Frank Rivera, Alice Colet-Villadolid and Ambeth Ocampo.

PLAYWRIGHT Jose Victor Torres plays DJ to Gilda.

The stuff of everyday hero

From page C1

succeeded in presenting "an opportunity to know more about The Guy as well as to discover the everyday hero in each of us."

Man and symbol

People get the impression that just because Magsaysay has long been identified with the *masa* he actually sprung from the grass roots. Many are not aware that he, in fact, belonged to the landed gentry of Zambales.

It was just that he was a natural, who even as a boy gravitated toward his parents' laborers and tenants and spoke for them, that he came to be known as champion of the masses.

It is in this light that we welcome Andrada's film docu, as it is important in clarifying certain issues and reintroducing the late president to the nation's youth.

Most of today's youths have only heard stories about this man and his deeds from their grandparents. Naturally, they wouldn't be able to separate fact from legend, or sift man from symbol.

Even old-timers have retained some misconceptions, such as that before he became a significant personage in Philippine politics he was a mere mechanic. Yes, he was a fine mechanic, but of his own Model T, which he worked on with his own hands even if he could well afford hired hands.

The film is an interesting mélange of documentary footage, still photographs, reenactments shot in black-and-white, and interviews with relatives and friends in color. The whole is annotated by the hosting of Ala de Leon and the voiceover narration of Emily Abrera.

The collage of arresting images is held together by a lucid narrative structure and a careful visual composition. Director Andrada also serves as the cinematographer.

A charming visual device is the interacting of photo cutouts of personages with reenacted scenes and landscapes. This has the desired effect of jazzing up the biopic for a young audience. (Andrada himself is a young filmmaker.)

Enhancing the effect is the orchestration of "Mambo Magsaysay" by Alfonso Bolipata and the Pundaquit Virtuosi, which drifts through the scenes as a leitmotif.

Citizens and leaders

The film event was meant to start a Ramon Magsaysay Filmcade which would eventually take this documentary to schools and educational and youth forums nationwide. Along with the launchings of a Magsaysay biography and a seven-book series on the Ramon Magsaysay awardees, the activities lead up to the late president's birth centenary next year.

MAGSAYSAY awardees Ek Sonn Chan (Cambodia), for Goverment Service; Park Won Soon (Korea), Public Service; Antonio Meloto (Philippines), Community Leadership; Sanduk Ruit (Nepal), International Understanding; Eugenia Apostol (Philippines), Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts; and Arvind Kejriwal (India), Emergent Leadership

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

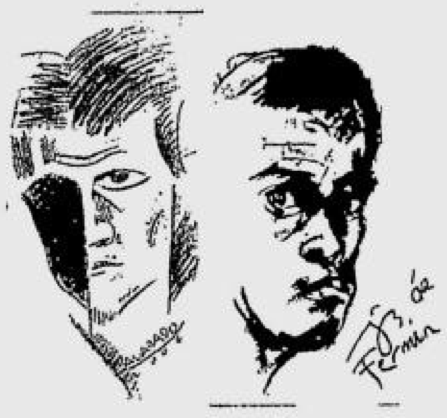
This is a necessary project that should reintroduce to the young generation the concept of the hero—the authentic one from history and of the people, not the Harry Potter variety.

On April 5, 1955, Magsaysay addressed the graduating students of the University of the Philippines: "You are equal to the task: You have the clear-eyed vigor of youth and your minds have been sharpened into keen and precise instruments... As useful citizens of today, I welcome you. As leaders of tomorrow, I salute you."

Filipino youths who were not even conceived at that time returned both gestures of welcome and salute during the invitational premiere of the documentary on his life. Crowds of them came in full force to the Ramon Magsaysay Center for the screening.

If President Magsaysay were only alive, he would have seen how much loved he was, and relished the moment.

VISUAL ARTS



Alvarado, Fermin in Cebu

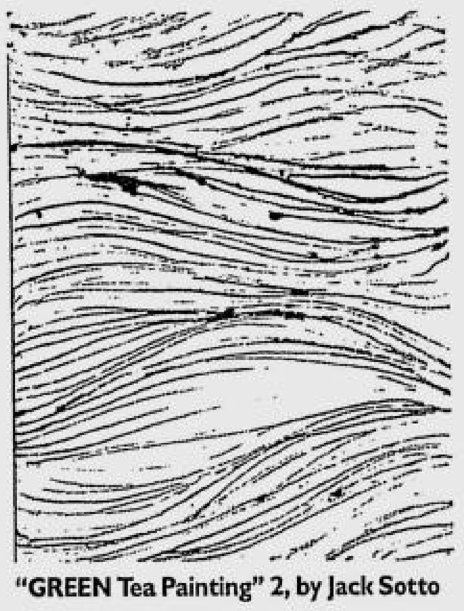
Nunelucio Alvarado and Anthony Fermin hold a joint exhibit on Sept. 8 at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City. The exhibit showcases depictions of everyday scenes and everyday people in acrylic and oil. With the show, they pay tribute to their long-standing friendship. Call or text 0919-5136279.

Ardena at CCP

Kristoffer Ardena presents "Delicatessen," until Sept. 30, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Pasilyo Victorio Edades. The exhibit features 200 pieces of spray-painted images of sex toys as still-life subjects. Call 8323702.

Esguerra photo exhibit

Carlos Esguerra, a Filipino photographer based in New York, presents "Salamisim," until Sept. 12 at the Ayala Museum. The exhibit presents the artist's own interpretation of Philippine landscapes taken with a Nikon D70 digital camera during his last visit to the Philippines in February and March. Call 7577117 to 21 local 31.



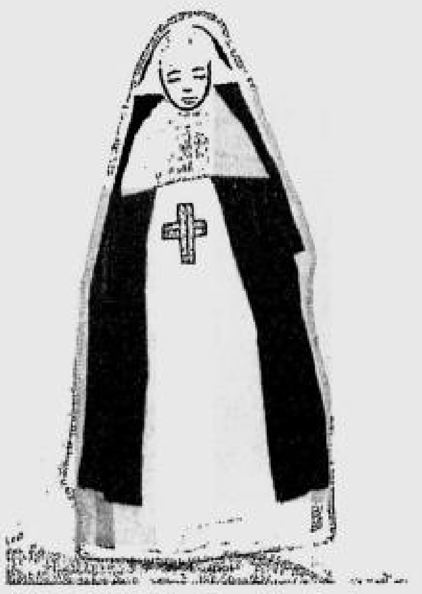
"GREEN Tea Painting" 2, by Jack Sotto

Women artists, Sotto at Mag:net

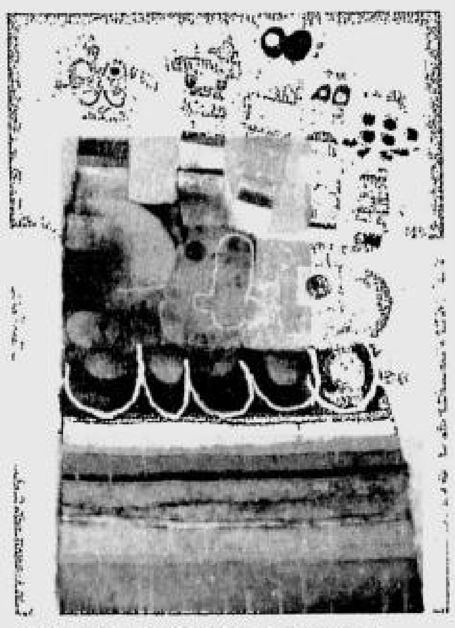
Mag:net Gallery ABS (The Loop, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN compound, Mother Ignacia Avenue and Eugenio Lopez Street, QC) presents "Deep Stretch," a group exhibit by Christina Dy, Geraldine Javier and Lyra Garcellano, Sept. 5-30, featuring their recent forays into formalist concerns of various representations. Javier shows her cushion dolls; Dy presents her large-scale charcoal drawings; and Garcellano features her oil paintings of manmade catastrophes and explosions. Call 4100995.

Meanwhile, Jack Sotto presents his recent works of medium-size and large-scale paintings, Sept. 7-30, at Mag:net Gallery Paseo, G/F Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas and Sedeño Street, Makati. Call 8177895.

"BAKLAD-5342," by Carlos L. Esguerra



"DRESS-UP," by Geraldine Javier



"SMALL Wonders," by Christian Tamondong

Tamondong at Crucible

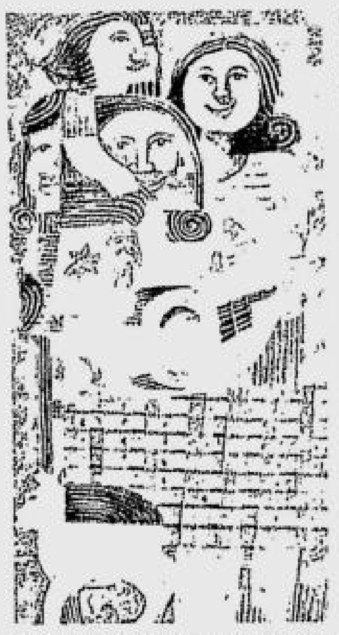
Christian Tamondong mounts his latest exhibit, "Oh! Sweet Life," on Sept. 5, 6 p.m., at the Crucible Gallery, 4/F, SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City. The exhibit presents the artist's contemplations on the interdependency of happiness and sadness. The exhibit will run until Sept. 17. Call 6356061.

Gajo at De las Islas

"Disenyong Hinubog sa Kahoy," a one-man exhibit by Frank Gajo, features wood sculptures using traditional hardwood such as *molave*, *narra* and *batikuling*. The exhibit runs until Sept. 16 at Galeria de las Islas, 3/F, Silahis Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. Call 5272113.

Sillada at Podium

Danny Castillones Sillada presents his ninth one-man show "D.C. Sillada Convergence," Sept. 18-24, at The Podium, ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City. Call 3963107.



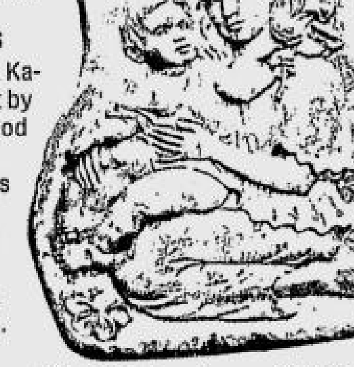
ARTWORK by Andrew Barba

Barba at Peninsula

Andrew Barba's "Pag-ibig sa Tanging Anak," which highlights the triumphs of the autistic child, opens at The Gallery of the Manila Peninsula Hotel, Makati City, Sept. 7-9. The exhibit is a project of the Center for Autism and Related Disorders-Professional for Autism Foundation Inc.

Children's artists in Marikina

Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan (Ang I.N.K) presents "Sa Tabi-tabi Po," 15th annual exhibit, Sept. 17-24, at Riverbanks Mall, 84 A. Bonifacio Ave., Barangka, Marikina City.

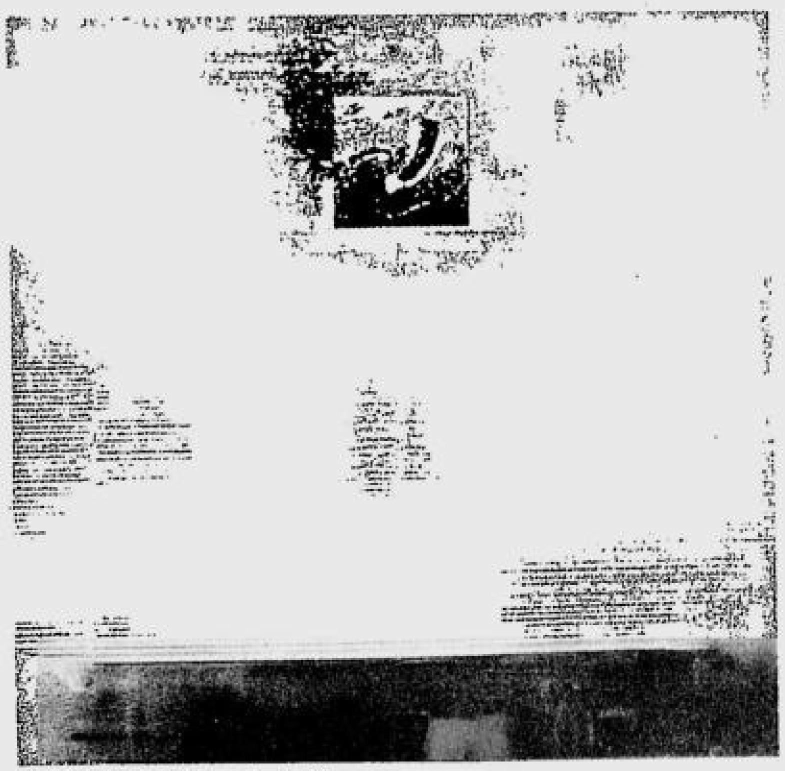


"ROSAS, Inay," by Frank Gajo

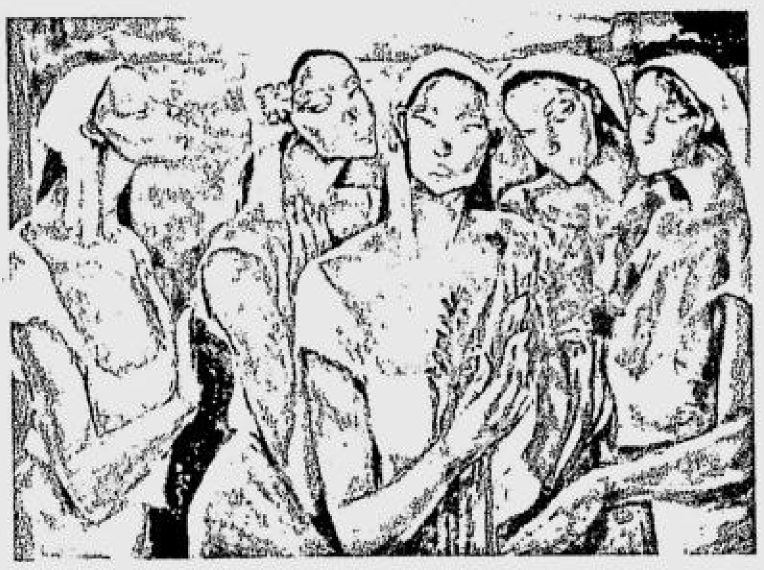
Workshops

Ayala Museum offers workshops on watercolor and acrylic painting for adults, scheduled every Saturday of the month, Sept. 9-30. Call 7577117 to 21 local 29.

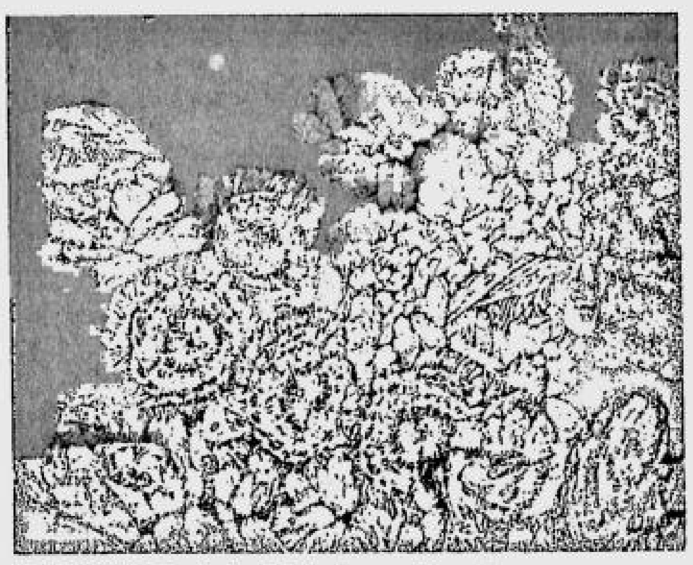
The Yuchengco Museum (RCBC Plaza, Ayala and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues, Makati) offers its first workshop, "Shui Mo" (Water-Ink) Chinese Traditional Painting, starting Sept. 23. The workshop is open to beginners and painting enthusiasts and will run for three months, every Saturday, 2-5 p.m. Interested students may call 8891234.



"AGE of Faith" 2, by Carlo Magno



"FIVE Women at the Harvest," by Lydia Velasco



"RENEWED Optimism" 3, by Juvenal Sansó

Singapore blast

JUVENAL SANSÓ, LYDIA VELASCO and Carlo Magno topbill an exhibit of fine art from the Philippines and Indonesia in Singapore.

"Art of the Philippines and Indonesia" is running at the Gallery, Arts House, 1 Old Parliament Lane, Singapore.

Indonesian artists on exhibit are Adrien Jean Le Mayeur, Krinjino, Arie Smit and R. Abdullah Basoeki.

A total of 25 works from Philippine artists and 25 works from Indonesian artists will be on display. The artists have had works auctioned off by Sotheby's and Christie's as well as by Southeast Asian auction houses such as Larasati and Borobudur.

Sansó was born in Catalunia, Spain, in 1929, and moved to Manila five years later. He studied at the UP School of Fine Arts and the University of Santo Tomas. In Europe, he pursued further studies at the L' Ecole Nationale Superiore Beaux Art. Sansó has been traveling extensively and has had major exhibitions in Italy, the United States, England, Mexico and Spain.

Velasco transforms women into full-bodied creatures to signify strength of character. The chinky eyes and sharp features add solid details to their yellowish tones and muscular frames. The strokes and contours evoke the freedom women should possess.

Magno is the latest Filipino artist whose work has been selected by Sotheby's for auction. He brings to abstractionism many of the elements and skills he learned in realism such as direct and indirect lighting, the intensity of light as focal point, contrast, composition, harmony and creative use of the horizon.

Guest of honor in the opening was Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Belen A. Fule Anota.

Call Galerie Joaquin-Main in Manila at (632) 7239253 or (632) 7239418 or Galerie Belvedere in Singapore at (65) 6423 1233 or (65) 6423 1638.

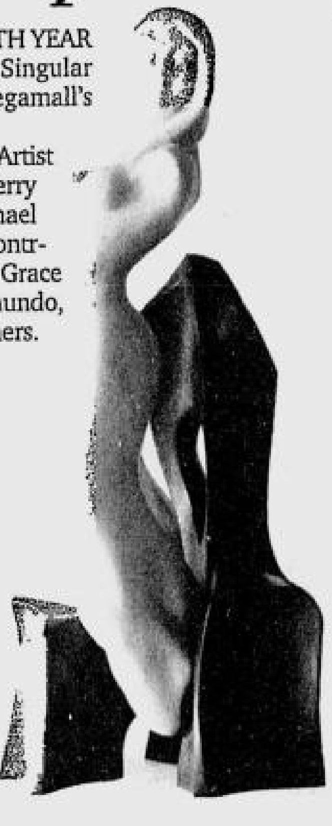
Singular sculptures

GALLERY NINE WILL MARK ITS SEVENTH YEAR with an anniversary sculptural show, "Singular Forms," opening tonight at the SM Megamall's Art Center.

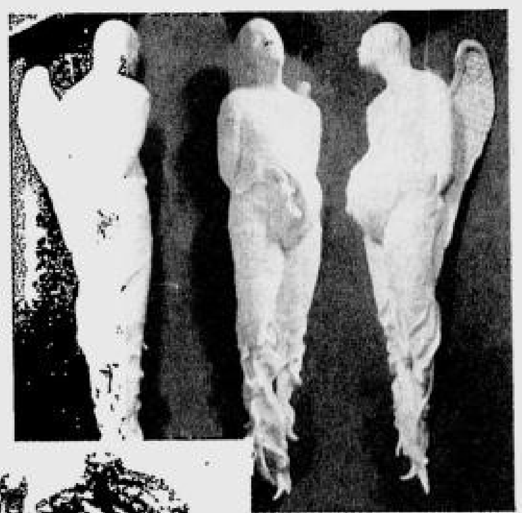
The show features pieces by National Artist Napoleon Abueva, Ral Arrogante, Jerry Araos, Gabby Barredo, Rogger Basco, Michael Cacnio, Seb Chua, Rey Paz and Tala Isla Contreras, Roen Capule, Juan Sajid Imao, Grace Katigbak, Ramon Orlina, Dr. Ton Raymundo, Claude Tayag, and Jun Vicaldo among others.

Call 6877302.

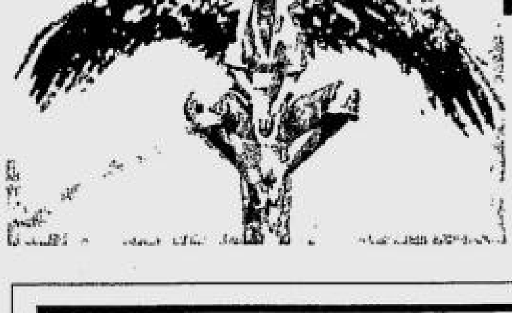
"FREEMAN," by Gabby Barredo



"UNTITLED," by Seb Chua



"UNTITLED," by Rogger Basco



"PAGOD NA," by Michael Cacnio

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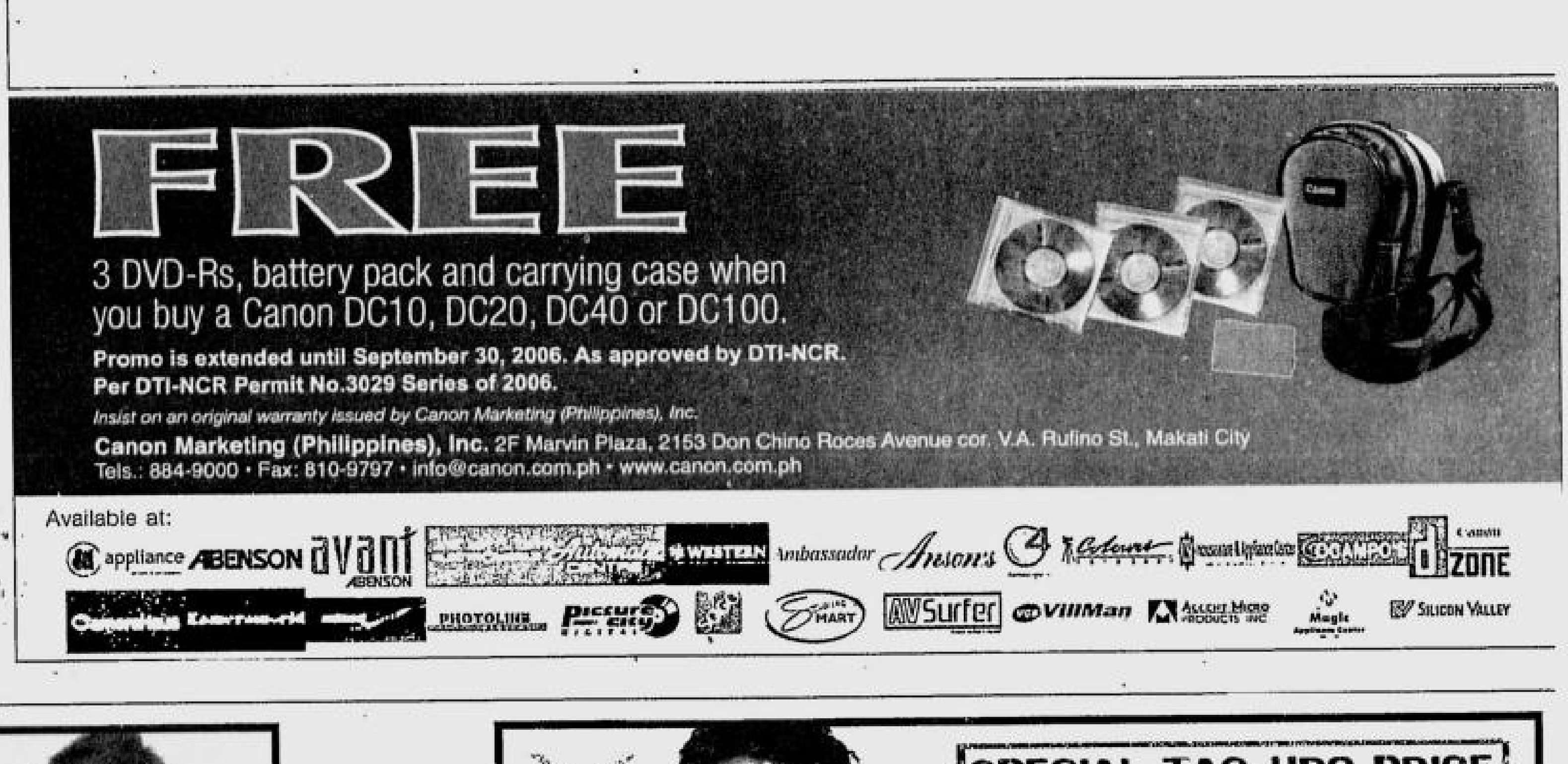

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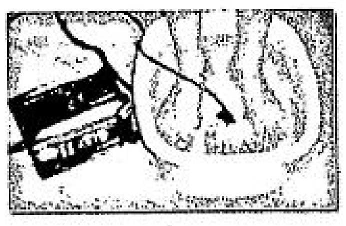

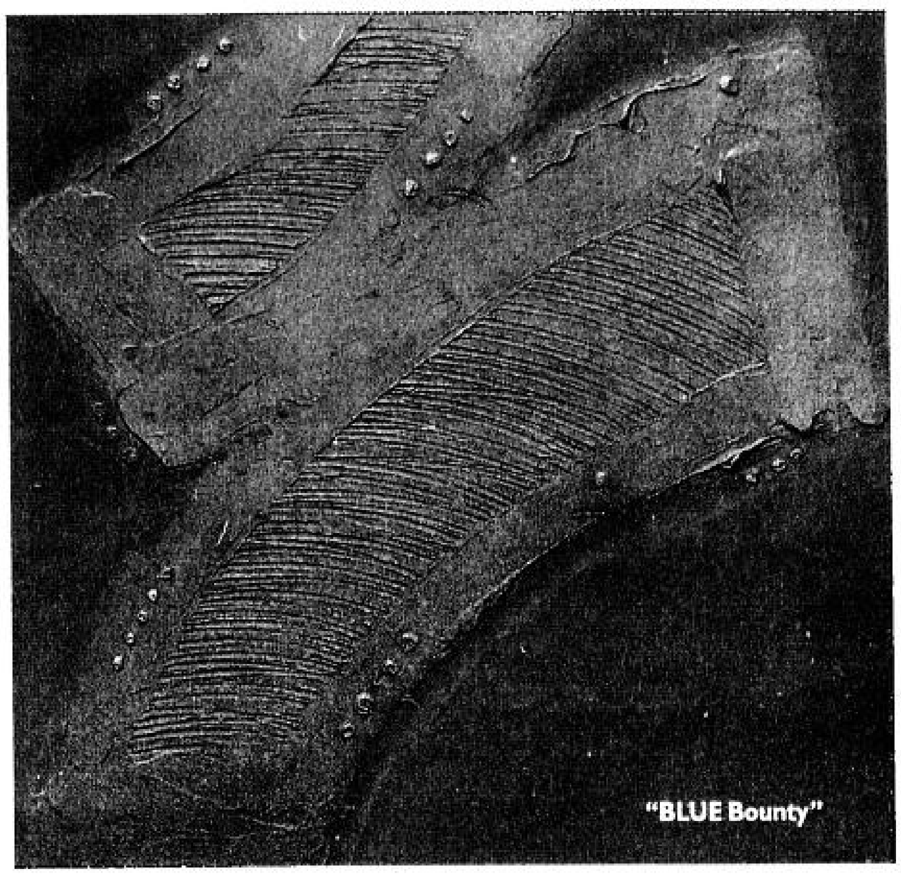

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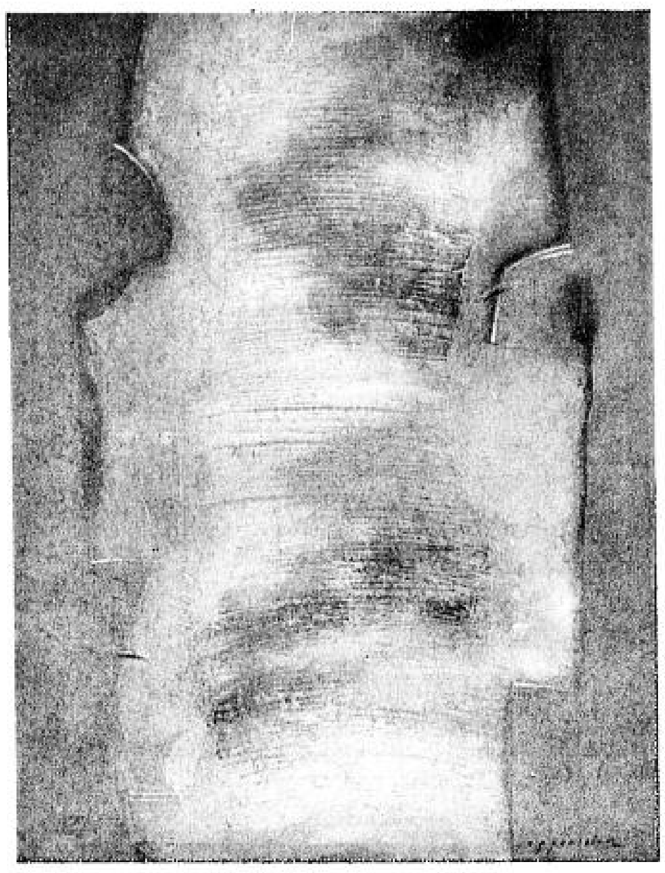


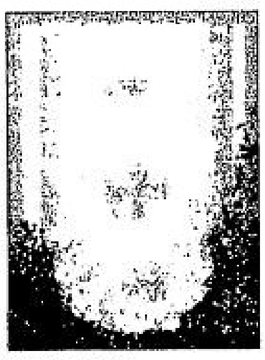
“EARTH and Her Promise”

Offemaria’s ‘Elements’

WILFREDO “OFFE” OFFEMARIA JR. majored in Painting at the University of Santo Tomas and was president of Fine Arts batch ’93.

Although joining the design industry immediately after graduation, he painted in his spare time and joined group shows, which eventually led to exhibitions in Luxembourg, Belgium, Austria and Germany in 2004.

Last year, Offemaria won the grand prize in the National Commission for Culture and the Arts' Diwa ng Sining Art Competition. His works have also earned citations from the Philip Morris Asean Art Competition, the Art Association of Philippines (AAP) Annual Art Contest, and the Metrobank National Painting Competition.



“MAGMA”

Offemaria is creative director of a fashion company.

Offe’s abstracts show everyday shapes and forms, and part of the enjoyment of viewing them is the process of attempting to recognize exactly what familiar scene, object or activity has inspired his work.

The collection that comprises “Elements” underscores his textural savvy—where the thickening of his medium implies the movement of earth, fire, water and wind. He presents in abstraction how, ultimately, submission to their power is inevitable: whether to their wily, massive forces or their tranquil nuances that invoke serenity.

“Elements” opens Sept. 22, 7 p.m., at Blanc Art Space, 2E Crown Tower, 107 H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Call 7520032 or 0920-9276436.

Bulacan artists in group show

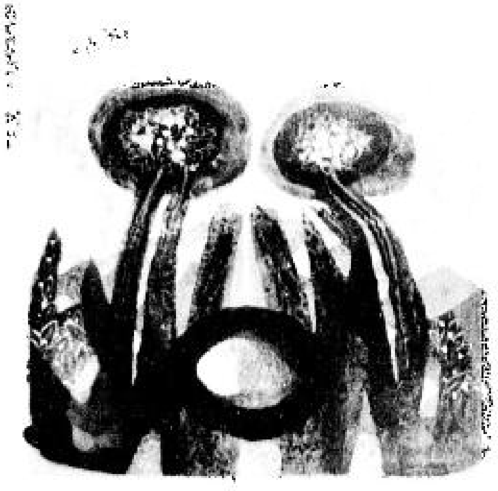
THE LAKAN SINING NG BULAKAN UNDER its new president, Fil Delacruz, is celebrating its 31st anniversary with an art exhibition to coincide with the annual celebration of Buwan ng Bulakan. The opening cocktails are tonight at 6 at Heritage Gallery, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

To open the exhibit are Bulacan Gov. Josie de la Cruz, Rep. Lorna Silverio, Daniel Fernando and other provincial board members.

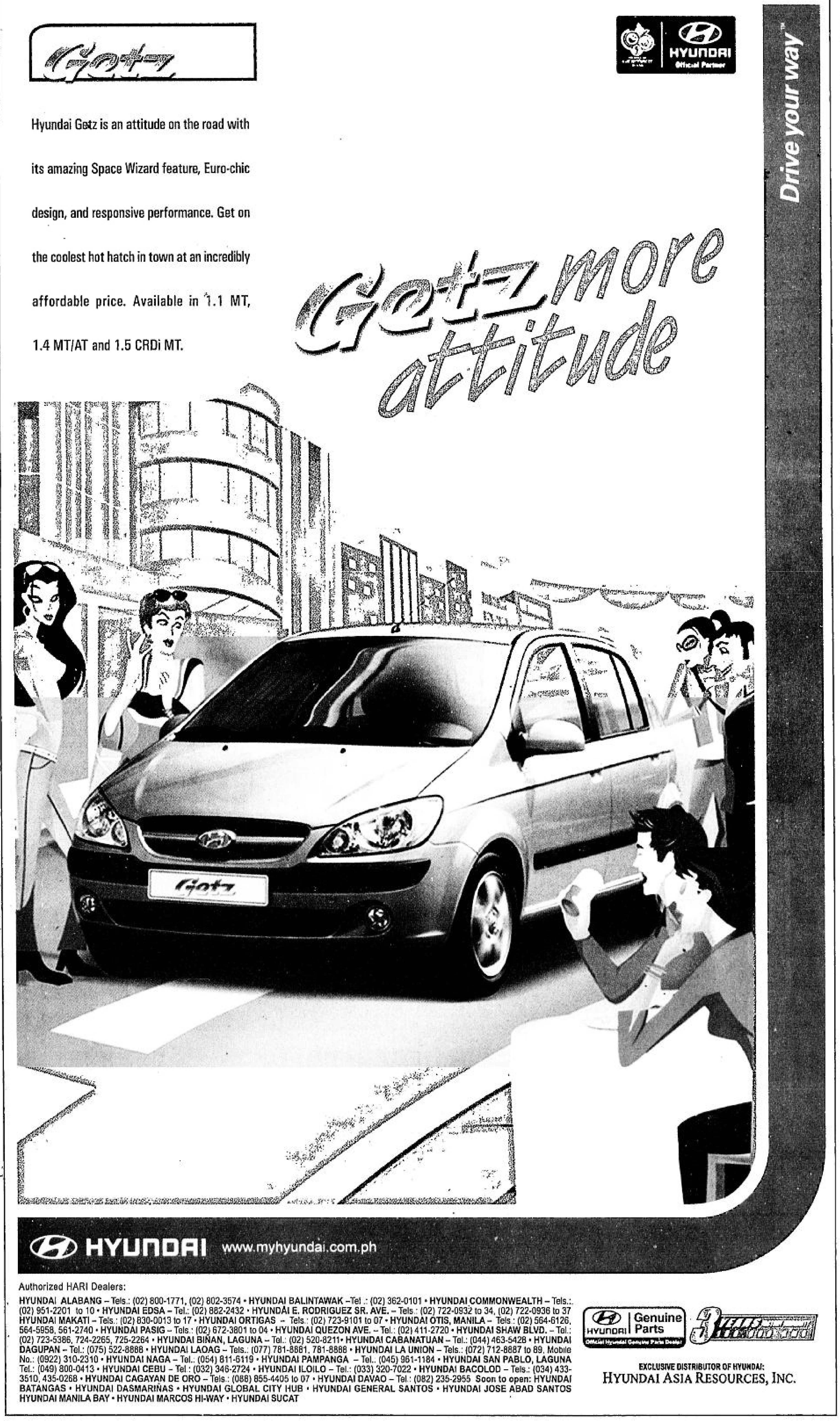
Lakan Sining is an umbrella group composed of 14 art groups from different towns of Bulacan. Participating artists include Malang, Raul Isidro, Lito Carating, Roi Veneracion, Narciso Santiago, Sylvia Joaquin, Rain Libiran, Buddy Ching, Rey Salamat, Ramon Castillo, Ernie Velasquez, Dra. Joy de Leon, Danny Pangan, Nilo Badajos, Janos de la Cruz, among others.

The exhibit runs until Sept. 13.

Lakan Sining's former leaders include Tomas Bernardo, Cenon Rivera, Jose Joya, Al Perez and Guillermo Tolentino.



“IMAHEN,” by Fil Delacruz



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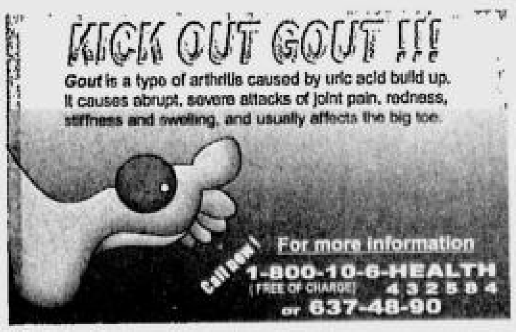
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Manila excited over 'Eugene Onegin'

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

SOPRANO Rachelle Gerodias
ERIK ARAZAS

CLEARLY, THE MOST AWAITED opera event of the year is Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin," which will be staged by the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music on Sept. 29-30.

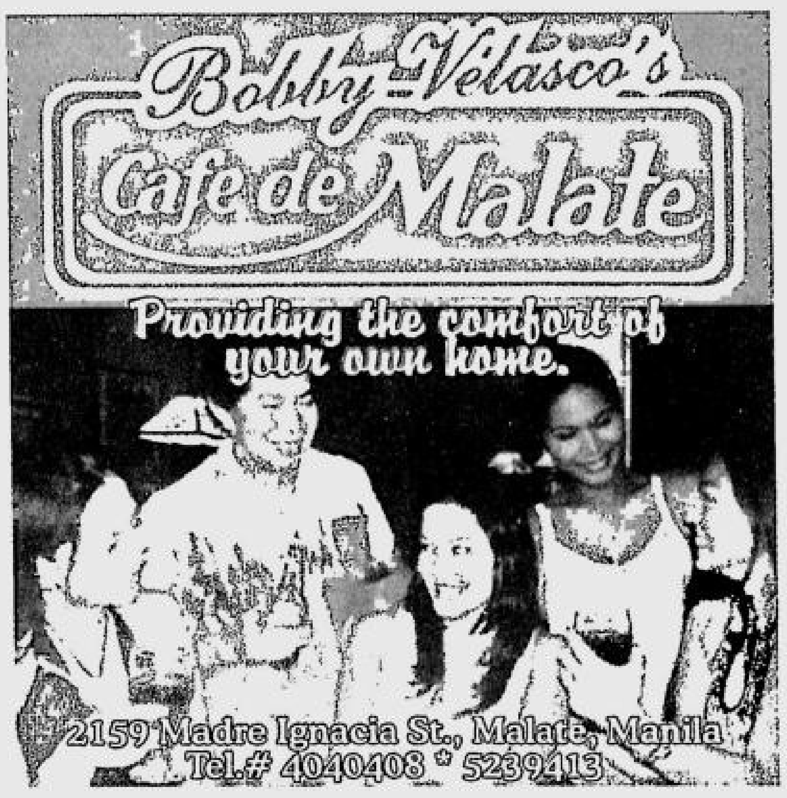
In the distant past, Manila was the musical field of Verdi ("La Traviata"), Puccini ("La Boheme" and "Madama Butterfly") and Donizetti ("Lucia di Lammermoor" in the late '40s and '50s and "Rigoletto" in the late '90s).

CCP staged a magical Mozart ("Magic Flute"), courtesy of Sarah Caldwell, in the early '80s, and an all-Filipino "Marriage of Figaro" shortly after.

In the early '90s, Rolando Tinio staged Filipino versions of "Traviata" and "Boheme," which the

MANILA EXCITED/ D2

The UST Conservatory of Music is staging the Tchaikovsky opera and making full use of its top talents like Rachelle Gerodias, Andrew Fernando and Noel Azcona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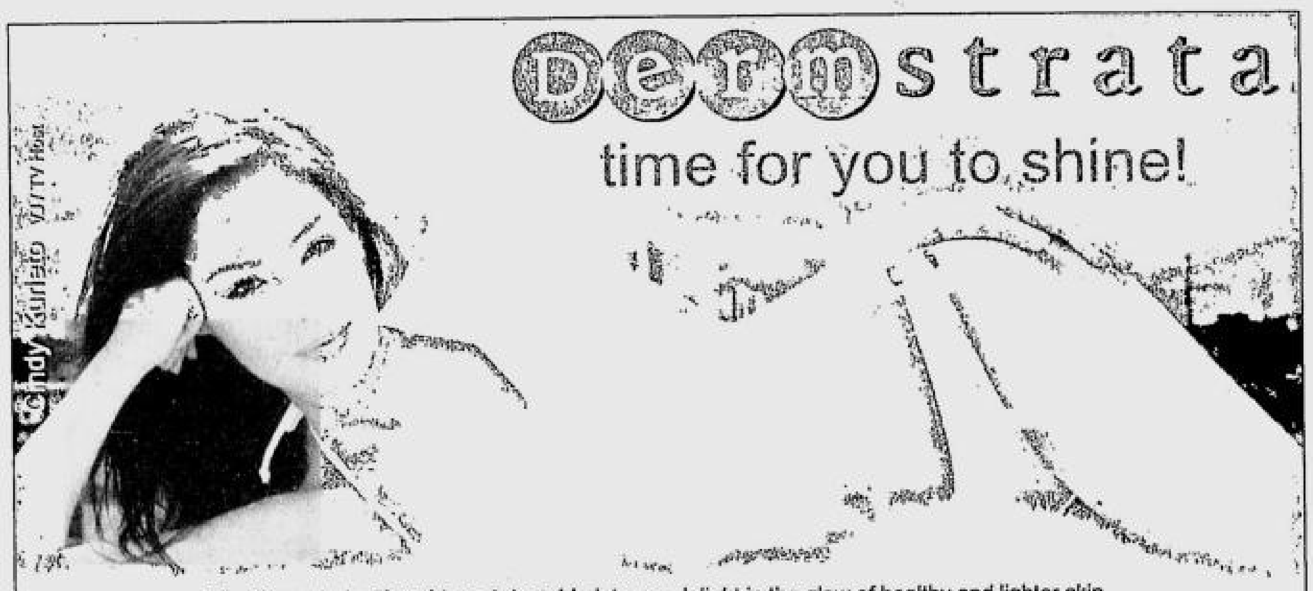
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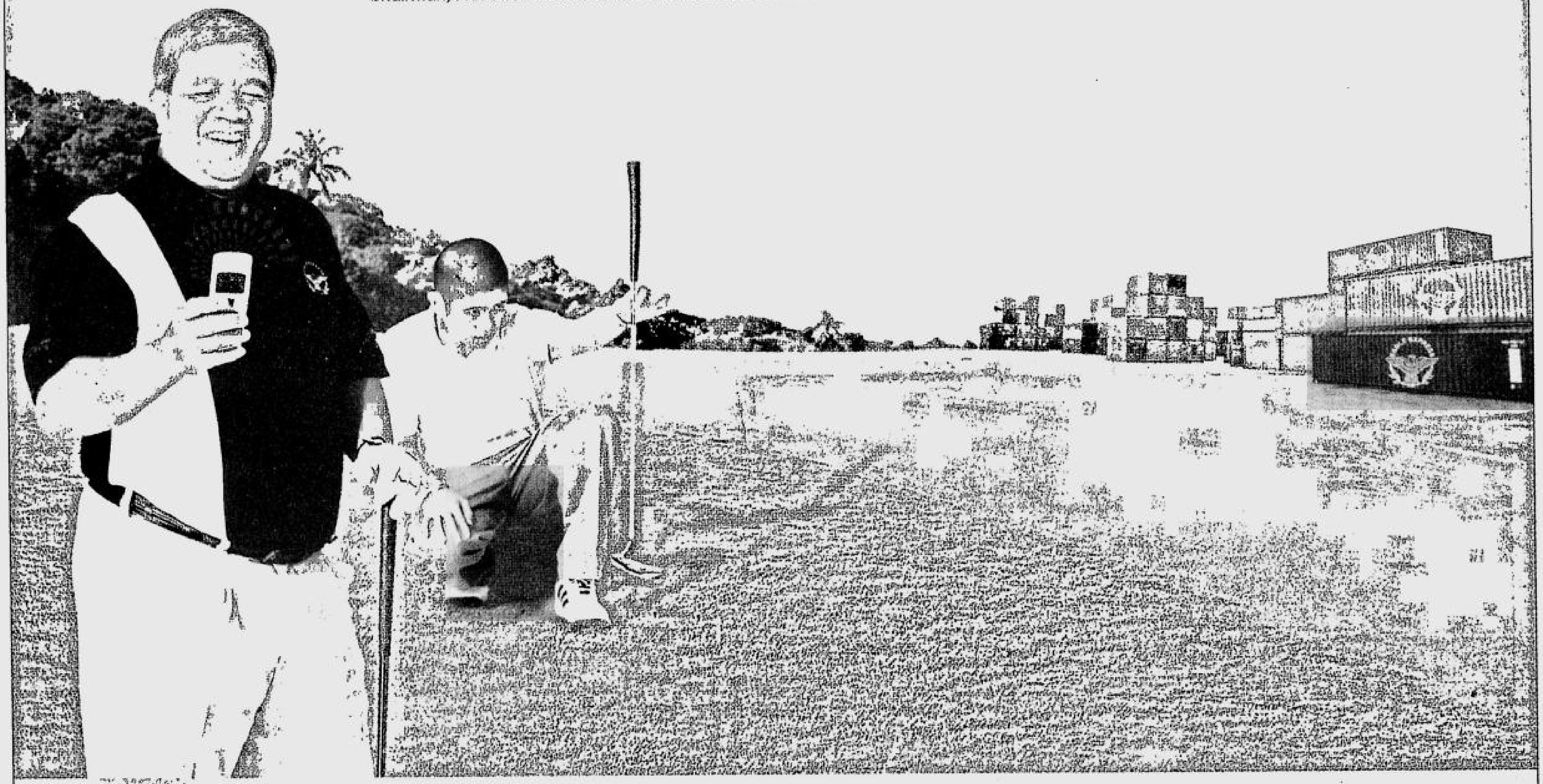

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Manila excited over 'Eugene Onegin'

From page D1

young enjoyed—to the horror of opera purists.

Mozart made a not-so-auspicious comeback with "Don Giovanni" in 2000.

But has Manila heard of Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin"?

Some years back, there was a Broadway version of the Tchaikovsky opera in a small theater. But it was in a small theater with just a piano for accompaniment.

This month, "Eugene Onegin" moves to the CCP Main Theater with a formidable cast, mostly products of the UST Conservatory of Music. The title role will be alternately sung by baritones Andrew Fernando and Noel Azcona with Tatyana to be sung by sopranos Rachelle Gerodias and Thea Perez.

Tenors Ronan Ferrer and Randy Gilongo alternate as Lensky. Clarissa Ocampo and Rexceluz Evangelista will sing the role of Olga.

The UST Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Hermie Ranera will accompany the singers while Floy Quintos directs.

"Onegin" is just one of the projects initiated by Raul Sunico, dean of the UST Conservatory. Before him, the deanship was held by such illustrious names as Julio Esteban Anguita, Bernardino Custodio, National Artist Antonino Buenaventura, Sergio Esmilla Jr., Benjamin Tupaz, Stella Goldenberg Brimo.

Clearly Sunico believes our opera talents need constant vehicles in which they can evolve as artists and performers.

UST is behind Sunico's project.

If you didn't know it yet, UST will turn 400 years old by 2011, and "Eugene Onegin" is just one of the highlights of the coming UST quadricentennial celebration.

AIMA Labra Makk at RCBC Theater; Dean Raul Sunico (inset)

Precious Hiyas

Easily the most revealing recital of August was the homecoming concert of pianist Hiyas Hila, who's finishing her doctorate in Music at the University of Minnesota.

In a concert presented by the UP Sigma Alpha Sigma Fraternity Alumni Association at Philamlife Theater, Hila showcased her newfound maturity both in solo program and orchestral repertoire.

On the first part, Hila astounded with a well-focused Thirty Two Variations on an Original Theme in C Minor.

The tones dazzled and this was one performance one thoroughly enjoyed for its well-nuanced keyboard artistry.

Hila's new interpretative skill was evident in the piece by contemporary American composer Stephen Paulus called Preludes, with two sections, "Mysterious" and "Serene." The young pianist got to the soul of the piece and was loudly applauded.

Debussy's "Images" in three sections capped the solo program.

BARITONE Noel Azcona JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

The most welcome highlight of this concert was, of course, the participation of the young version of the Manila Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Arturo Molina. It opened with Mozart's "Magic Flute" Overture and closed with Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 in A Major, with Hila as soloist.

After the Beethoven, Paulus and Debussy, the pianist was another revelation in the Mozart concerto.

Her tones sparkled and it was one Mozart with lots of subtle undertones of joy and sadness. The adagio part was emotionally piercing but it came across as a fond remembrance of things past.

In the joyous finale, Hila emerged triumphant and obliged with a well rendered encore, Chopin's Nocturne in F.

Cebu pianist Makk

Another homecoming concert took place at the RCBC Carlos P. Romulo Hall and it featured pianist Aima Labra Makk in a solo program.

Presented by a new booking office carrying her name and by St. Theresa's College, Labra Makk is a pianist from Cebu and whose initial concerts in Manila were well-received.

There were many good things going for this concert. It has an elaborate audiovisual where the night's repertoire (Mozart's Sonata in F, KV 280, and Schumann's "Davidsbundlertanze," Op. 6, among others) are well-explained the way surtitles are flashed on the stage in an opera.

If you have this concert guide, you really don't have to buy the program. The concert guide was well-written and excellently narrated.

In the hands of Labra Makk, the Mozart sonata had its light and arresting moments. In the program music, Schumann's "Davidsbundlertanze," Makk had all the moods etched with a fairly well-thought out keyboard touch.

But what one heard that night was just an outline of what could have been a thoroughly satisfying evening.

The acoustics in the hall was bad (this is an understatement) and the piano (probably not tropicalized for use in a tropical country) sounded so remote what one could decipher was a muffled Mozart and a deconstructed Schumann.

Nevertheless, one could see that Labra Makk was an engaging and honest performer. If she played at Philamlife or CCP, perhaps one would get to hear the keyboard interpreter at her best.

The lesson here is that presenters should take pains to give artists the best instrument (with competent tuner) and the best venue available. Otherwise, the best efforts will end up not fully appreciated.

Here and there

The Philippine Youth Symphonic Band will have a special fund-raising concert with Gary Valenciano as guest artist on Sept. 9, 6:30 p.m., at the Rockwell Tent in Makati City. It is called "Live to Play, Play to Live."

There will be an auction of seven designer chairs donated by such celebrated designers as Kenneth Cobunpue, Budji Layug, Al Coronan, Ann Pamintuan, Milo Naval, Tony Gonzales and Maja Olivares Co.

Proceeds will go to the music education and livelihood program for young musicians of the Philippine Youth Symphonic Band. This is the same group that participates in the annual national youth summer camp which gives intensive, live-in music course on sight reading, harmony, ensemble playing.

For ticket inquiries, call Ticketworld (tel. 8919999) and Starbucks Rockwell, or call the PYSB line at 0927-3910762 (look for Marie).

The Cultural Center of the Philippines held memorial rites for Cecinio Ronquillo, resident conductor of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, at the CCP Silangan Hall last week. Ronquillo passed away Aug. 16 and is survived by his wife Dr. Yasmyne Castillo-Ronquillo, and his sons Nikko and Micah. He has three sister-musicians who are also working with the PPO—Felicitas, Claudinia and Veronica Ronquillo.

PPO to honor RP's migrants

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

THE COUNTRY HAS ANOTHER centennial in 2007: It was one hundred years ago that the first Filipino migrants started arriving in the United States. It is a story of blood, sweat and tears.

In succeeding decades and until the late 1930s, Filipino migrants, mostly farmhands and workers, were subjected to violent discrimination by white supremacists, especially in the West Coast.

In California during the 1930s, there were "No Dogs and Filipinos Allowed" signs in bars and lodging houses.

Among those who suffered bitterly in the fields was Carlos Bulosan, who became a best-selling poet and short-story writer in the US during the 1940s. He is best known for the classic "America Is in the Heart," which is not a novel but a work of nonfiction. Bulosan himself described it as a "personal history."

In 1982, Dolores S. Feria, Bulosan's literary executor, had asked: "Are the more than one million Filipinos in America aware of how many Filipinos died to make life safe for them?"

THE PHILIPPINE Philharmonic Orchestra with Maestro Eugene Castillo

FROM top left: Pianist Najib Ismail, soprano Irma Ponce-Enrile Potenciano, pianist Cecile Licad; (second row) clarinetist Jay Hassler, baritone Noel Azcona and pianist William Wolfram

Concert tour

The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO)—under music director Eugene Castillo, himself a native-born American of Filipino parentage—will honor these migrants in a tour of US cities (San Francisco, Washington, Chicago and New York) in May 2007.

The trip will be sponsored by Philippine ambassadors and consul-generals. The PPO is the resident orchestra of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

The trip was revealed by Castillo in a recent press conference, at Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila, which was actually called to announce the PPO's 23rd (2006-7) concert season, which starts Sept. 8.

In answer to a question, Castillo said the 2007 trip would not be purely cultural but would have an historical perspective.

As the CCP's Dennis Marasigan pointed out, "there will be historical exhibits leading to June 12, Independence Day."

"We would like people to remember the sacrifices [of migrants and World War II Filipino veterans]," Castillo said. "For example, in San Francisco, the rights of these veterans are now being made good upon by the mayors."

He added, "We are trying to offset the things that have happened in history."

Oh yes, we were talking about the PPO's 2006-7 concert season at the CCP. Each concert has a theme, as in "Drama Unfolds" and "The Next Generation."

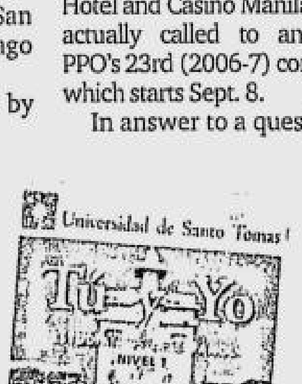
The season opens with clarinetist Jay Hassler playing a Copland concerto on Sept. 8, and ends with the Philippine Madrigal Singers interpreting Bruckner's "Te Deum" on April 13, 2007.

Composers whose works will be played include Mozart, Brahms, Beethoven, Bernstein, Respighi, Hindemith, Tchaikovsky, Dvorak, Maramba and Peña.

Among the featured soloists are pianists Najib Ismail, Cecile Licad and her son Ottavio Meneses, soprano Camille Lopez, and baritone Noel Azcona.

"Each concert will be different," threatened the principal conductor of the PPO.

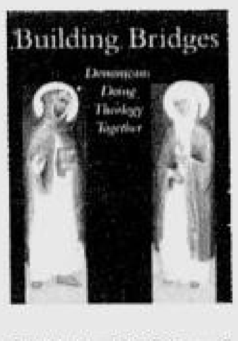
UST launches 26 new books



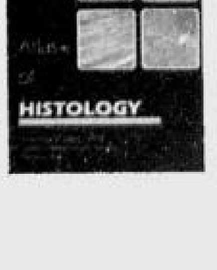
Postmodern Filming of Literature

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS Publishing House will launch 26 new titles on Sept. 8, 10 a.m., at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex, UST campus, Manila.

The new books are part of the 40-book project of UST, which has been releasing at least 40 titles a year since 2001 in the run-up to its 400th founding anniversary in 2011.



Among the new books are "Tatlong Pasyon sa Ating Panahon" by Virgilio Almario with Mark Justiniani, Neil Doloricon and Ferdinand Doctolero; "Ani: The Life and Times of Hermogena Lungay" by Marjorie Evasco; "Between the Homeland and the Diaspora" by S. Lily Mendoza; "Postmodern Filming of Literature" by Joyce Arriola; and "Women in the House" by Erma Cuizon.



Other books: "Building Bridges: Dominicans Doing Theology Together" by Fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, O.P. et al; "Still from the Heart" by Fr. Tamerlane Lana, O.P.; "Culture of Excellence, Culture of Conscience: The First Five Filipino Rectors of the University of Santo Tomas"; "The Church and the Crisis of Truth" by Fr. Philip Francis Bersabe; and "Celebrating the Gospel of Life: Basic Issues in Bioethics," by Fr. Fausto Gomez, O.P.

Textbooks include "Introduction to Complementary Alternative Medicine" by Dr. Victoriano Lim; and "Industrial Chemical Processes in the Food Industries" by Cecilia Bayquen.

'Godot, Wer Is U?' at Tanghalang Pilipino

FOLLOWING ITS SUCCESSFUL RUN at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (CCP Little Theater) last June, Tanghalang Pilipino's "Godot, Wer Is U? moves to the more intimate Tanghalang Huseng Batute (CCP Studio Theater) for a four-weekend run from Sept. 8 to Oct. 1, with matinee shows at 3 p.m. (Saturdays and Sundays) and evening shows at 8 p.m. (Fridays and Saturdays).

"Godot, Wer Is U?" was part of the 2006 International Theater Festival and the French Spring in Manila 2006. Alain Timar, a respected nontraditional theater director, teacher, scenographer and plastic artist from Avignon, France, worked with TP actors for six weeks, employing interactive experimentation during rehearsals. For the move to Batute, TP's artistic director, Herbert Go, handles the transition.

Timar used an unconventional upbeat approach to the philosophical masterpiece about the senselessness (or purposefulness) of human existence. Go will be utilizing the same contemporary style to the production, giving it a youthful touch, to preserve Timar's directing integrity. Set in a community along the *riles*, this absurdist drama gets Filipinized, complete with street slang, Pinoy humor and a tricycle on stage.

The Filipino cast, handpicked by Timar from the many hopefuls who auditioned for the play, is composed of former and present Tanghalang Pilipino Actors' Company members and scholars. The two tramps are played by Paolo O'Hara as Vladimir (Didi) and Bong Cabrera as Estragon (Gogo). The cruel but lyrically-gifted man of means is played by Paolo Rodriguez, with Cris Pasturan as his weakling servant Lucky. Young acting discovery Mark Gil Bacea is God(ot)'s "little messenger."

George de Jesus III penned the translation, with sound design by Jethro Joaquin and production design by New York-trained Gino Gonzales. Technical director Barbara Tan-Tiongco doubles as the lighting designer.

Tickets are at P500 (regular) and P250 (student). Call 8323661 or 8321125 locals 1620/1621, or 8919999.

'Shock Value' from Dulaang UP

IT IS SAID THAT THE TELEVISION folk live in a world of their own, a world that is parodied and satirized in the new play by Floy Quintos for Dulaang UP, "Shock Value."

Welcome to the backbiting, hard-hitting, ratings obsessed, secret spilling world of "Shock Value," where nothing is never too bad to be a scandal. In the new work from the author of "St. Louis Loves Dem Filipinos," "Fluid," and "Lam," the obsession for ratings and scoops result in a hilarious parody of today's most powerful medium.

It is a story of Matt Desaparesidos, a man at the peak of his career at W.O.P. TV as a host and producer of the hit program "Shock Value." But Wes Gatchalian, a reporter from a rival station, KOTV, captures on tape Matt's sexual indiscretion with a young sex worker, Jason.

The cast includes Andoy Ranay, Jay Cruz, Missy Maramara, Pola Muñoz, Stella Canete, Frances Makil-Ignacio, Dexter Santos, Jomari Jose, Mario Magallona and Mon Confiado, with the Dulaang UP ensemble.

"Shock Value" runs until Sept.17 at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, 2/F, Palma Hall, UP Diliman. Call 9261349.

Mr. & Ms. tackles the beauty debate

MR. & MS, THE SUPERMONTHLY of the body, mind and spirit, explores all things beautiful in its September issue.

The magazine examines the varied meanings of beauty. Is beauty, for example, the girl with the flawless white skin, 24-inch waistline and 36-B or C bra size, with long, straight hair?

Debunking mass media's usual definition, "Discover the Goddess in You" relates the Biblical story of Esther who used her looks to save herself and her people from persecution and death. The article challenges the reader to discover an inner beauty and strength.

Another article discusses renowned psychic Edgar Cayce's take on beauty: "Beauty comes from within, rather than as an external condition—for the external fades, but the beauty of life, of individuality shining through the personality of self—gives the beauty that fades not."

"The Many Facets of Beauty" quotes Plato: "Beauty is a privilege of nature." The feature explores how an individual can be beautiful by meditation and exploring the inner self.

The issue includes a beauty supplement aptly titled The Gorgeous You.

In keeping with its focus on spirituality and the supernatural, the series on divination continues with a feature on Zoomancy or Divining with Animals. UP professor Crysta Rara examines the power of animals to signal disasters or other important events.

Jaime Licauco, in his column, poses the topic "Why the Future Can be Seen."

The wonders of telepathy or retrocognition is discussed in another article.

Super-monthly of the Body, Mind and Spirit
SEPTEMBER 2006
P 100
Mr.&Ms.
30 YEARS
The Beauty Issue
Great, Gorgeous, Gandal
Release the Goddess in You
Veggie!
Dancing, Anyone?
When Animals Signal Disaster
The Rosicrucians

Columnist Mariel Francisco reviews "The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying" by Sogyal Rinpoche.

"The Brethren of the Rosy Cross" is about modern-day Rosicrucians, the "secret" organization popularized by "The Da Vinci Code."

Popular celebrities Sam Milby and Toni Gonzaga, rumored to be steadies, grace the cover.

Metro's 'Big Beauty' issue

OVER 100 OF THE BEST BEAUTY PRODUCTS on the market are tested, rated and recommended by the Metro staff for its annual beauty issue. Moisturizers, sunblocks, makeup, hair products, lip and eye creams, you name it and it's in Metro's September issue.

Actress, wife and mother Dawn Zulueta graces the cover, and talks about how staying beautiful means living healthy, and living outside of yourself to reach out to others.

Manila's most stylish women also share their beauty secrets, and a former beauty editor dishes out what she really learned on the job.

For fashion essentials, learn how to wear the latest trends, from leggings to minis, no matter your age and body type.

Beauty queen and TV host Miriam Quiambao opens up about the end of her fairytale marriage, and the process of moving on.

Metro, "the magazine for the independent woman," is available nationwide.

Model search

Meanwhile, Metro is conducting a search for the next Filipino supermodel.

If you're 18-28 years old, at least 5'6", a Filipino, and can communicate well in both English and Filipino, you may join the search.

At stake are prizes worth almost P400,000—in wardrobe, beauty treatments, workshops and gym memberships—and a fashion spread in Metro.

METRO
DAWN ZULUETA
LEGGINGS, WIDE BELTS AND MORE:
BEAUTY EDITOR
JESSICA ZAFRA
LIFE IN ACCESS

Check out the Top Model Search mechanics and fill up the forms found inside Metro Magazine's August, September and October 2006 issues.

Submit requirements to Metro's Top Model Search, c/o Metro Magazine, 4/F ELJ Communications Center, Eugenio Lopez Ave., Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1300, on or before Nov. 6.

Log on to www.metrotopmodelsearch.tk. .

Latin American cultural festival Sept. 6-8

THE PHILIPPINE ACADEMIC CONSORTIUM for Latin American Studies (Paclas) will hold a series of lectures and a "Noche Latina" (Latin night) at the Ateneo de Manila University on Sept. 6-8 to raise public awareness on the Philippines Spanish Latin heritage.

On Sept. 6, at the Social Science audio-visual room, Felipe Diaz, consul of the Embassy of Chile, will lecture on Chile's political history: 1970s to the present.

On Sept. 7, at the Faura building audio-visual room, Ambassador Mario Schuff of Argentina will show a documentary film, "Aspects of Argentina," and comment on the themes.

On Sept. 8 at the Faura AVR, Manuel Perez Iturbe, chargé d' affaires of the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, will discuss Venezuelan oil and geopolitics in Asia and the Pacific.

There will also be an exhibit of various Latin American countries at the basement of the MV Pangilinan Center for Student Leadership.

On Sept. 8, 6-9 p.m., Paclas, in cooperation with the Ateneo Lingua Ars Cultura, a student group promoting the appreciation for the humanities, will present Noche Latina, a mini-fiesta at the roof deck of the MV Pangilinan Center. There will be Latin music, dances, samba and Brazilian martial arts demonstrations, and a food sale. Winners of the essay-writing contest on Latin America and the Philippines will also be announced.

The events are open to the public.

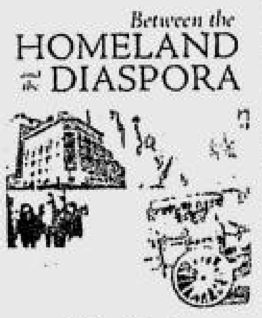
The Paclas was organized by the Department of Foreign Affairs in 2002 to promote greater awareness of Latin America among Filipinos, especially university students. Members are Ateneo, Philippine Institute for Development Studies, University of the Philippines, De La Salle University, University of Sto. Tomas, University of Asia and the Pacific, and University of the East.

Call 4265907 or 4266001 local 4037 or 4038.

Postcolonial lecture by Fil-Am expert

S. LILY MENDOZA, ASSISTANT professor in culture and communication of the University of Denver, will deliver the lecture "Savage Representations on the Academy: Liberal Ideology and the Impossibility of Nativist Longing" at the audio-visual room of the Faculty of Arts and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas Sept. 7, 3 p.m.

The lecture is part of a series sponsored by the UST Department of Literature and the Varsitarian, the UST student paper, on Filipino expatriate scholars. Previous speakers were Fidelito Cortes, Nerissa Balce, Marianne Villanueva and R. Zamora Linmark.



S. Lily Mendoza

Mendoza's book "The Homeland and the Diaspora: The Politics of Theorizing Filipino and Filipino American Identities" is published by Routledge of London. The Philippine edition is published by UST Publishing House.

The lecture is open to the public.

Personal discovery workshops

A SHARPENED SELF-awareness leads to an enhanced self-esteem and improved interpersonal relationships. Discover fresh insights about yourself and learn how to ward off those negative vibes that get in the way of your success and happiness at Da Seekers Cove (DSC) Personal Discovery Workshops.

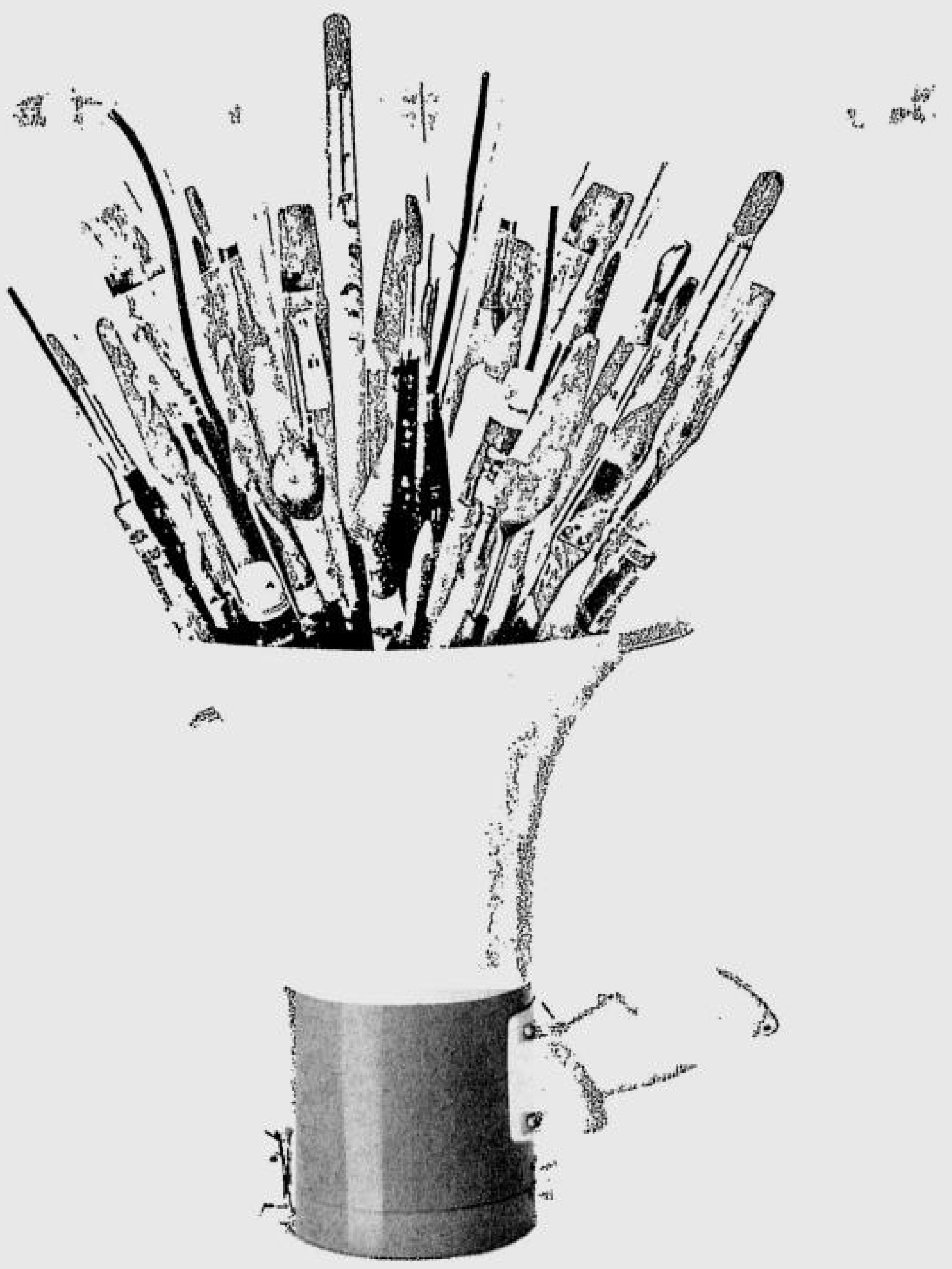
DSC has prepared fun and dynamic discussions and exercises about Assertiveness (Sept. 16) to overcome blocks to personal assertiveness; Patterns of Relationships (Oct. 21) to better understand those emotional and mental programs in our subconscious that affect our relationships with people; Coping with Stress (Nov. 18) to find out how you can harness stress for success; and Letting Go and Moving Forward (Dec. 16) to liberate oneself from a painful past.

All sessions will be held 6-9 p.m. at DSC, 4th level of Robinsons Galleria. Each workshop charges P500 inclusive of food. Registration fee is P100.

Da Seekers Cove is a counseling and training center owned by Shinette Garbanzos, a psychologist and HRD practitioner for over 30 years. She is an expert in gestalt, dream therapy, enhancement of self-esteem, stress management, conflict resolution and person-centered approaches to learning. Likewise, the center's counselors and instructors are competent professionals gifted with sensitivity and prescience.

DSC also offers tarot reading, dream insights and group encounter workshops.

Call 6371286, 0927-5675611.



Philippine Art Awards 2006
Last Call for Entries

This much-awaited visual art competition continues to accept entries in all media and is open to all themes. All entries must be wall-bound.

Grand Prize: P300,000 (One Winner)
Juror's Choice: P150,000 each (Four Winners)

All winners will be awarded an all-expenses-paid trip to Singapore.

Entry forms are available in Manila at the Philip Morris Philippines office at the 27th Floor, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City during office hours, Monday to Friday and at all Provincial Collection Centers.

Submission of Entries

Area	Collection Center	Date
Cebu	Southwestern University Museum	August 28
Davao	UP Mindanao – Terraza Mileza Building	August 31
Cagayan de Oro	Museo de Oro – Xavier University	September 9
Bacolod	Negros Museum	September 19
Iloilo	Dagyaw – School for the Arts	September 20
Naga	Developmental Institute for Bicolano Artists	September 25
Baguio	Baguio Mountain Provinces Museum	September 30
Manila	Asian Tigers Lane Moving and Storage	October 6

For inquiries, contact the Philippine Art Awards Secretariat at (02)887-9550, Fax (02)887-9514 or e-mail: philartawards@pmintl.com

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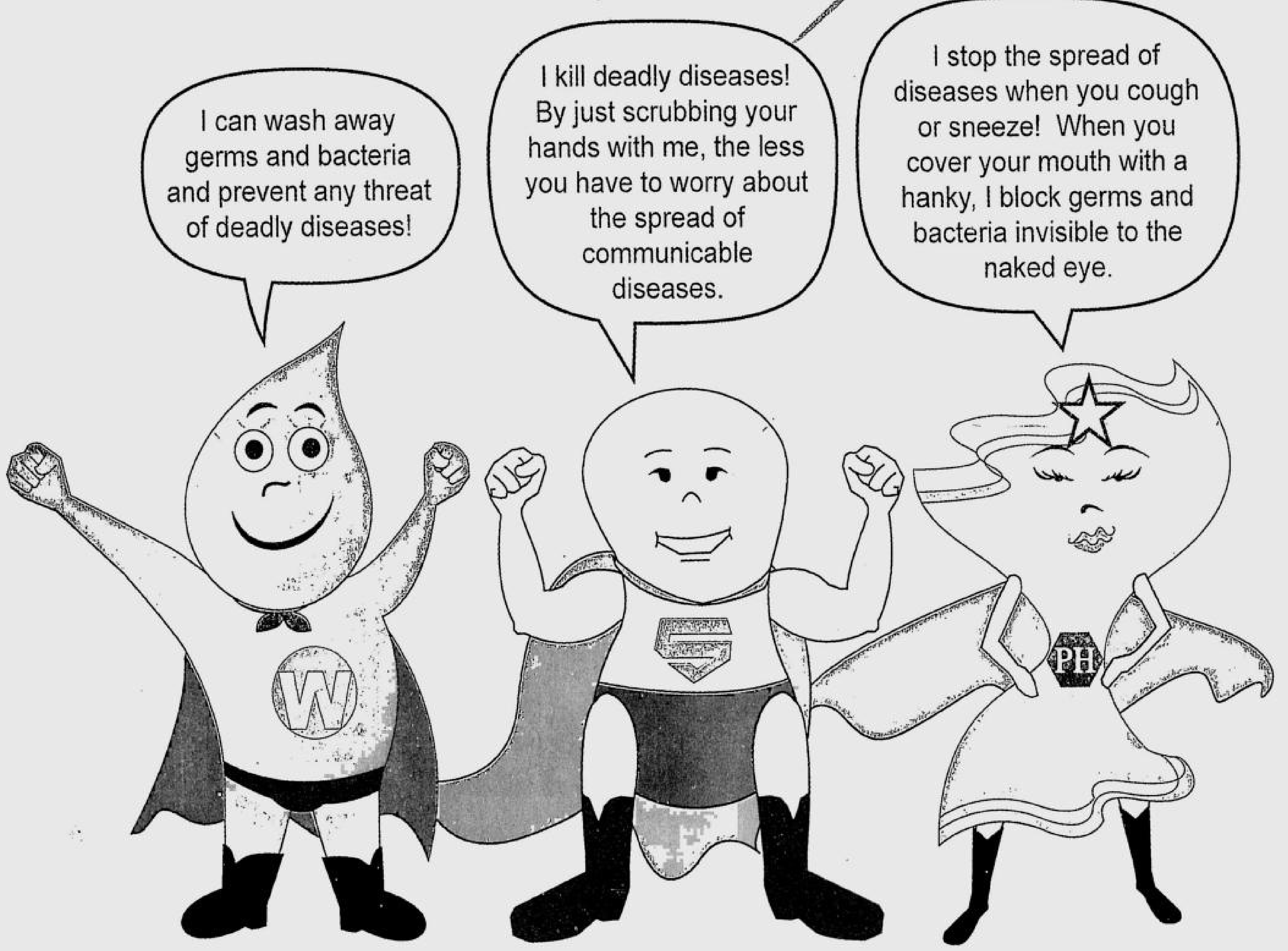
HYGIENE SQUAD FOR HEALTH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National Center for Health Promotion Department of Health, Manila 2006

Spread the word, not the disease! Cut-out this portion and post on public bulletin boards.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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Penguins captivate Mega

By Sharon Cuneta
Contributor

MY JOY over doing the narration for “Penguin, Penguin, Paano Ka Ginawa?”—Filipino version of the 2005 Oscar Best Documentary Feature, “March of the Penguins”—should be evident in the final print.

I first saw this docu on Pay TV in my hotel room in Hon-

PENGUINS/ E2

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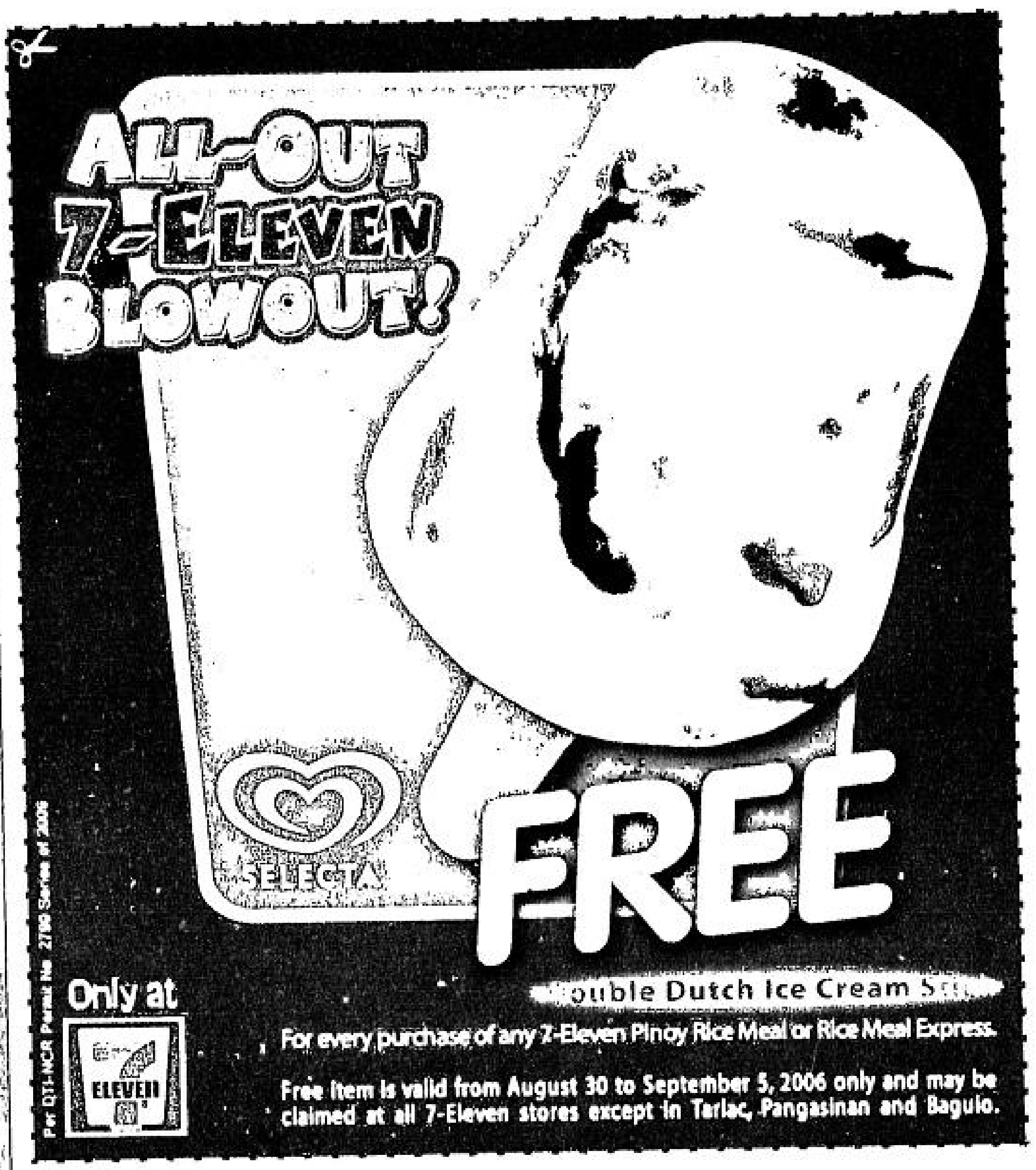

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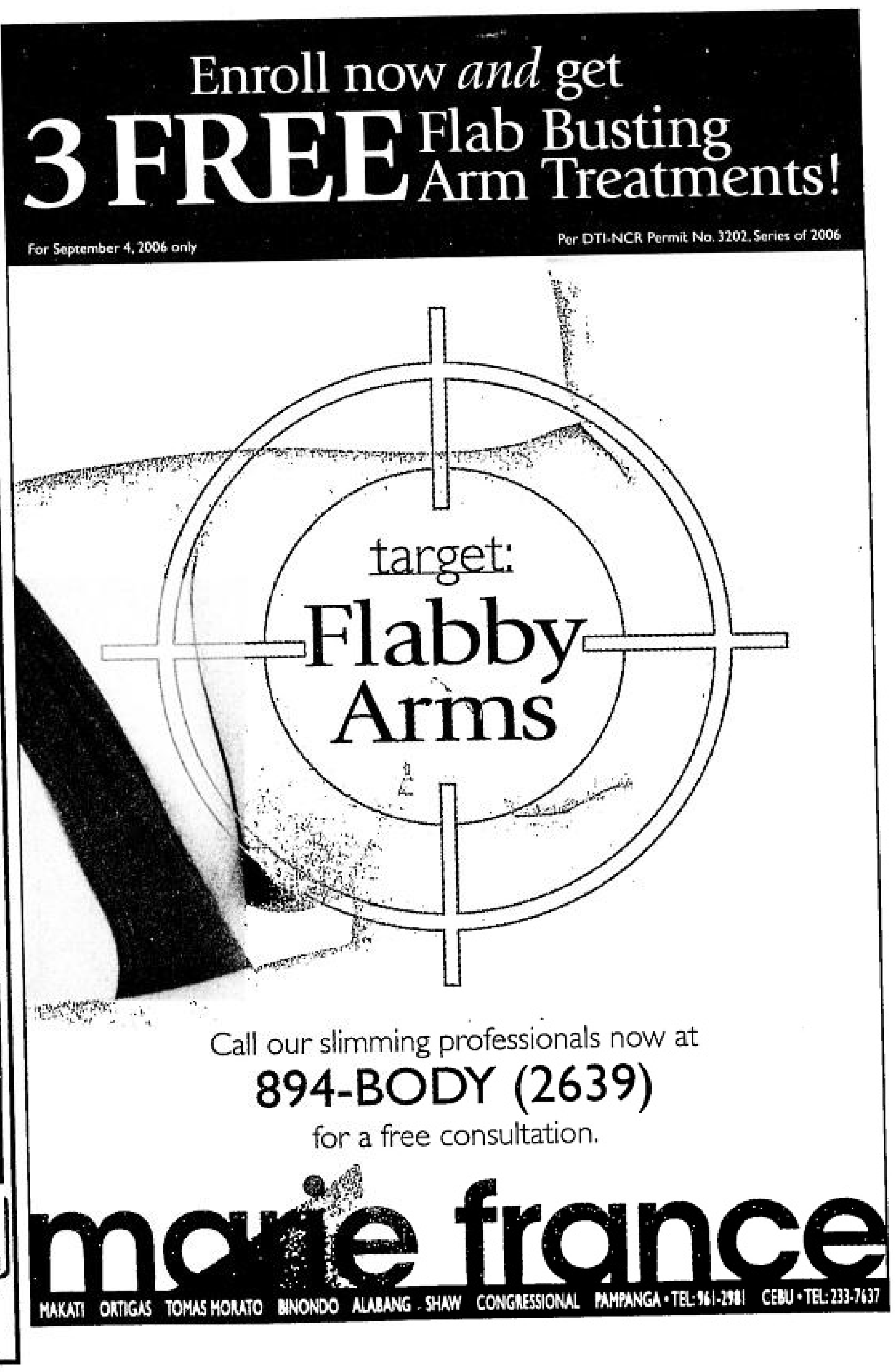

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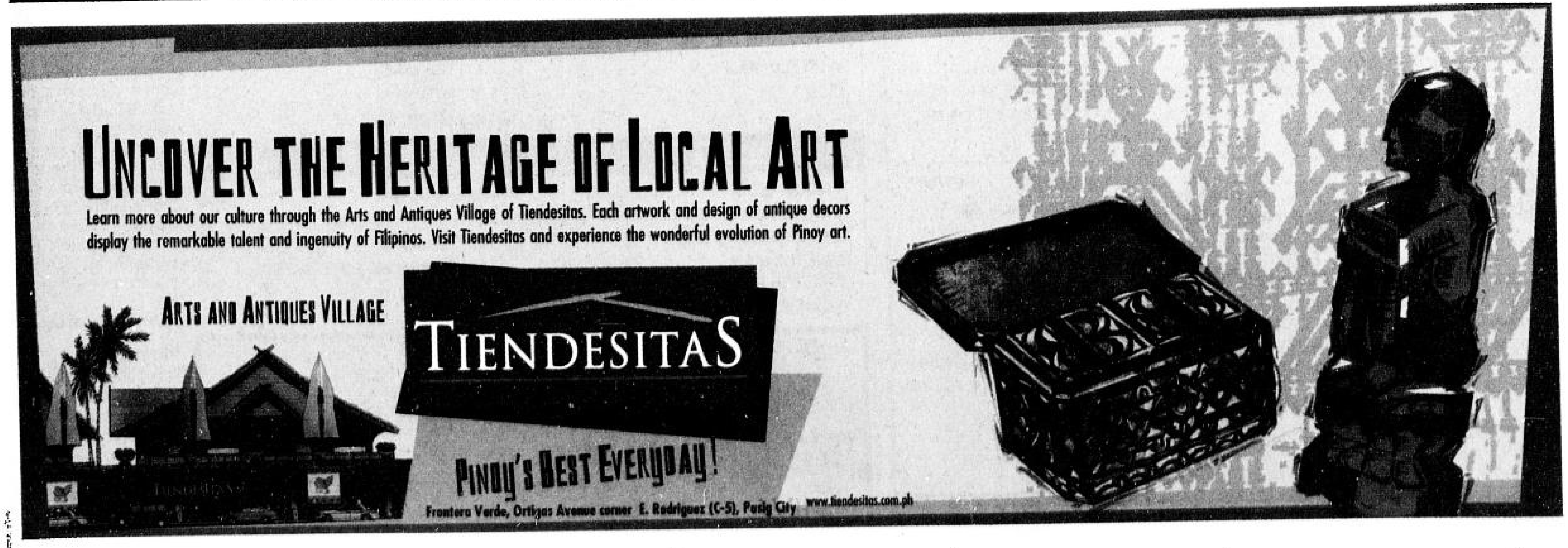

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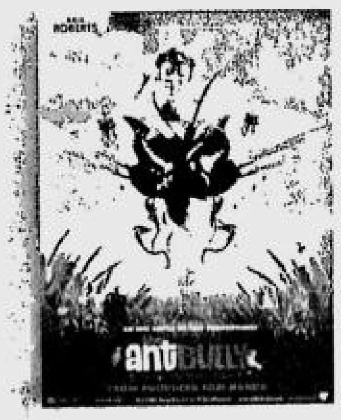

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11 LITTLE MAN
12 CRANK

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5 LITTLE MAN
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12 CLICK

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8 MORTUARY
9 SUKOB
10 STAY ALIVE

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9 CLICK

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4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

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3 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
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3 YOU ARE THE ONE
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6 LITTLE MAN
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2 LITTLE MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 MORTUARY
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
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2 LITTLE MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
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3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
4 STAY ALIVE
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:45
5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
6 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
12:00 2:20 4:40
7 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
8 RESERVED
9 THE BIG WHITE
12:40 3:00 5 20 7:40
10 LITTLE MAN
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1 YOU ARE THE MAN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 STAY ALIVE
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3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 SNAKE SON A PLANE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6.00 8:00 9:50
5 LITTLE MAN
12:10 2:10 4:05 6:05 8:00 9:50
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
7 CLICK
12:10 2:10 4:05 6:05 8:05 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199
1 TAMARA
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 SUKOB
1.00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:10
4 LITTLE MAN
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9 00
5 CLICK
12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00
6 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
12.40 2:45 4:50 6 55 9:00
7 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
8 SNAKES ON A PLANE
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 LITTLE MAN
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378
1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STAY ALIVE

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STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 WOLF CREEK
4 LITTLE MAN

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 STORMBREAKER
3 THE BREAK-UP
4 JUST MY LUCK

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332
1 LITTLE MAN
2 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 MORTUARY
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

ANGELES (045) 892-2348
1 AMERICAN DREAMZ
2 TAMARA
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STORMBREAKER

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8168
1 MORTUARY
2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 LITTLE MAN

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270
1 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 FIERCE PEOPLE
4 LITTLE MAN
5 MORTUARY
6 MIAMI VICE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0463 (034) 441-0459
1 MIAMI VICE
2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 LITTLE MAN
5 FIERCE PEOPLE
6 CLICK

ILOILO (033) 336-8070
1 MIAMI VICE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 LITTLE MAN
4 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

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SHARON Cuneta

Penguins captivate Mega

From page E1

olulu. As my children were with me at the time and running around, I couldn't pay full attention. But I saw enough to be touched by it. (I saw the whole thing for the first time when I was already dubbing.)

Amazing

It was amazing, fantastic—emperor penguins exhibiting what I thought were very human qualities, like family love and devotion. I was proud to have been chosen for the job. I immediately wanted to do it for my children ... and for Filipino moviegoers. I was sure that if I let the opportunity pass me by, I would regret it all my life.

I was told that the narrator for the US version (the original, made by Luc Jacquet, is in French), Morgan Freeman—who has narrated so many documentaries over the years—had instructed his agent to not accept similar projects for a while.

Just read

But when the script for "March of the Penguins" came, the agent called him to say, "Just read it."

So Freeman did, and he called back right away to say he had to do it! I hope that story is accurate, although I would've said yes even without that backgrounder.

My own dubbing was scheduled for two days, but I ended up doing the whole thing in one go. It was so engrossing! I learned that it had been a surprise hit on its worldwide run, second only to "Farenheit 9/11."

Less serious

The script I worked with, written by Chris Martinez and Eugene Evasco, turned out to be not as serious as the US script. It's in Taglish, besides, so that even little children who have not learned English would understand and hopefully appreciate the movie. I can't wait for my children to see it with their Mama's voice telling the story.

It's not the kind of movie that the typical Filipino family would go out to see. But I really hope many do. Maybe this will open doors for more documentary features by our very own filmmakers. It's educational, informative and—I can't say this enough—amazing.

Moms, too

Let alone children, mothers will totally relate to this. Emperor penguin moms would do anything for their chicks. After laying the eggs (only

PENGUINS/ E3

THE MARCH of the penguins

Penguins captivate Mega

From page E2

one per mommy for one mating season!), the females very carefully transfer these to the males' feet for safekeeping. Then all the mommies go off, walking for weeks to the ocean to feed, and also to store food in their tummies for the hatchlings later on. Some would die during this long, perilous journey.

All Filipinos should watch "Penguin." I'm pretty sure they will be curious, in the very least. How can they not be, with a tagline that goes,"In the coldest, loneliest place on earth, there is love"?

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

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---Christy Lemire, AP [Associated Press]

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Dalawang panahon...
Pangalawang pagkakataon...
Para sa isang pag-ibig...Na walang hanggan.
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Iza CALZADO
Mark HERRAS
Jennylyn MERCADO
Eternity
A Film by MARK A. REYES, DGPI
MS. HILDA KORONEL
MS. JACLYN JOSE
BIBETH ORTEZA
PINKY AMADOR
BOBBY ANDREWS
PAW DIAZ
CHESKA INIGO
KRISTINE GONZALES
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G1	GLORIETTA 1	1	SNAKES ON A PLANE	
		2	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	
		3	CRANK	
		4	YOU ARE THE ONE	
G4	GLORIETTA 4	1	CRANK	
		2	YOU ARE THE ONE	
		3 THX	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	GUARANTEED SEATS
		4	THE LOST CITY	
		5	STAY ALIVE	
		6	MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND	
		7	LITTLE MAN	
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1	YOU ARE THE ONE	
		2	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THX	CRANK	1:45, 3:40, 5:35, 7:30, 9:25, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS
		2 THX	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
		3	THE LOST CITY	3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
		4	YOU ARE THE ONE	1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 8:55, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS
		5	CLICK	2:20, 4:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX	YOU ARE THE ONE	
		2	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	
		3	CRANK	
		4	SNAKES ON A PLANE	
		5	LITTLE MAN	
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1	YOU ARE THE ONE	
		2	MORTUARY	
		3	SNAKES ON A PLANE	
		4	LITTLE MAN	
M2	MARKET! MARKET!	1	YOU ARE THE ONE	
		2	SNAKES ON A PLANE	
		3	STAY ALIVE	
		4	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	
		5	CRANK	

At the Activity Center

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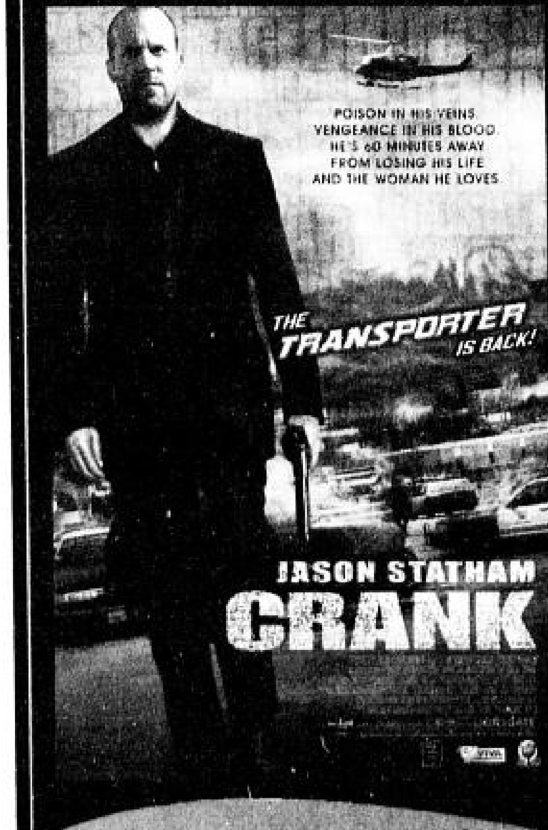
GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
39th BPI Installment Madness August 30 to September 17, 2006	Philippine Robotics September 7, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
German's Blackforest Brass Band September 4, 2006	Panoxil's Pimple Free, Cash Spree September 10, 2006

GREENBELT	Samba Nights at GB 2 September 13 & 27, 2006
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Walt Disney's ALADDIN JR. at REP's Globe Theater - Sept. 3, 9, Oct. 14 & 22 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM	Ode To The Pasig River Extended until September 17, 2006 For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org


POISON IN HIS VEINS
VENGEANCE IN HIS BLOOD
HE'S 60 MINUTES AWAY
FROM LOSING HIS LIFE
AND THE WOMAN HE LOVES
THE TRANSPORTER IS BACK!
JASON STATHAM
CRANK
VIVA

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GLORIETTA 4
GREENBELT 3
GLORIETTA 1
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MARKET! MARKET!

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

VIVA Ayala Malls glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER MARKET! MARKET!

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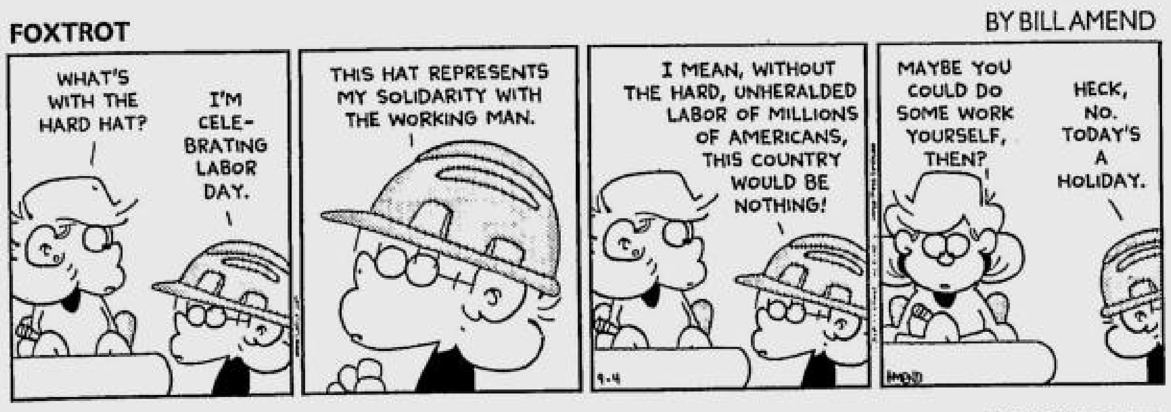
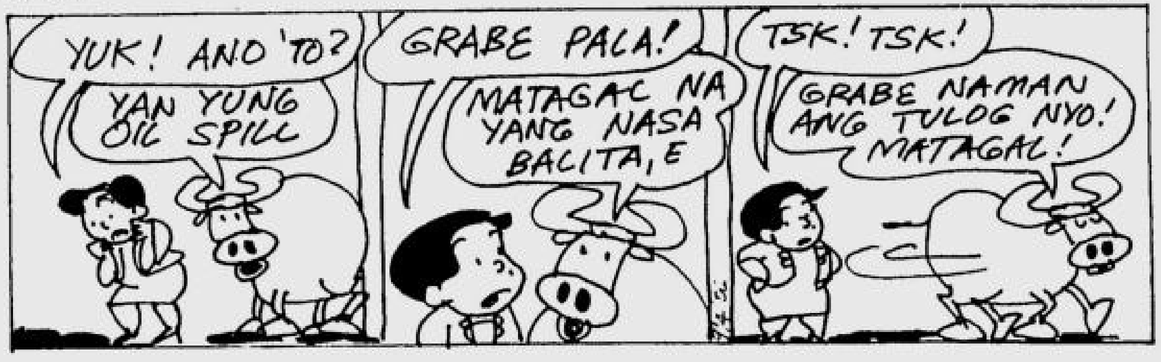
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHAT'S WITH THE HARD HAT?
I'M CELE-BRATING LABOR DAY.
THIS HAT REPRESENTS MY SOLIDARITY WITH THE WORKING MAN.
I MEAN, WITHOUT THE HARD, UNHERALDED LABOR OF MILLIONS OF AMERICANS, THIS COUNTRY WOULD BE NOTHING!
MAYBE YOU COULD DO SOME WORK YOURSELF, THEN?
HECK, NO. TODAY'S A HOLIDAY.
9-4

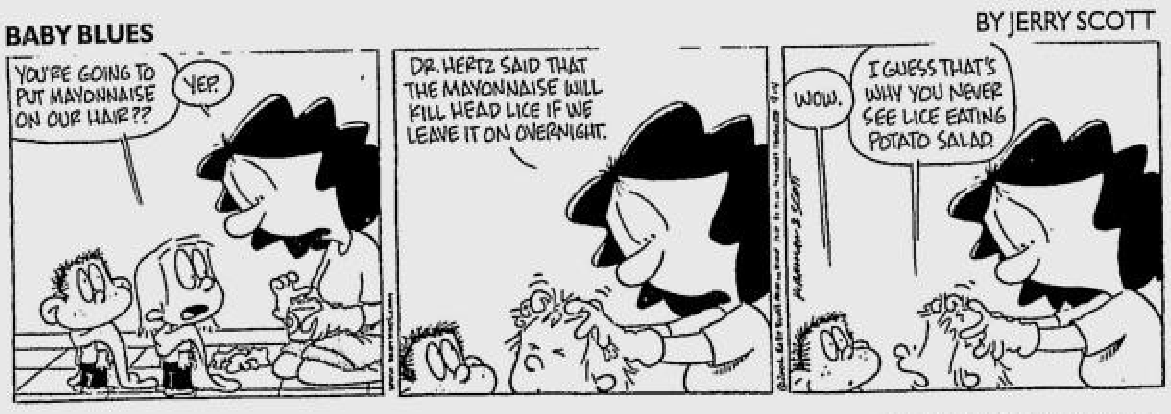
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


YUK! ANO 'TO?
YAN YUNG OIL SPILL
GRABE PALA!
MATAGAL NA YANG NASA BALITA, E
TSK! TSK!
GRABE NAMAN ANG TULOG NYO! MATAGAL!

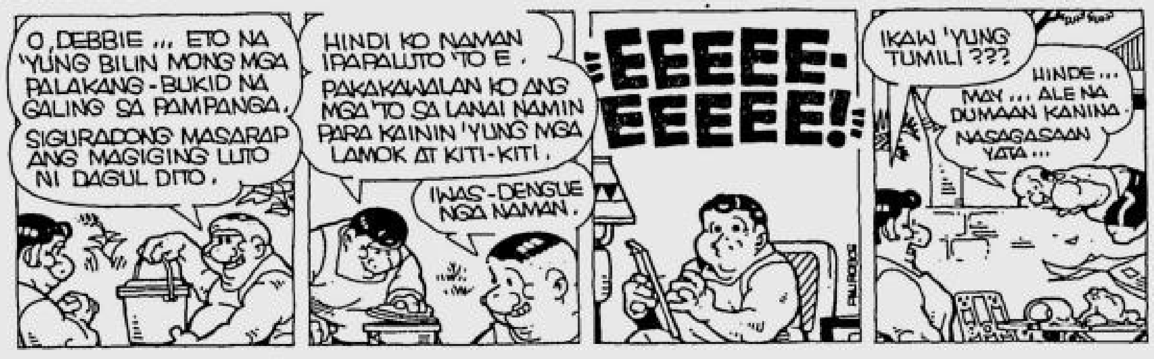
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU'RE GOING TO PUT MAYONNAISE ON OUR HAIR??
YEP.
DR. HERTZ SAID THAT THE MAYONNAISE WILL KILL HEAD LICE IF WE LEAVE IT ON OVERNIGHT.
WOW.
I GUESS THAT'S WHY YOU NEVER SEE LICE EATING POTATO SALAD.

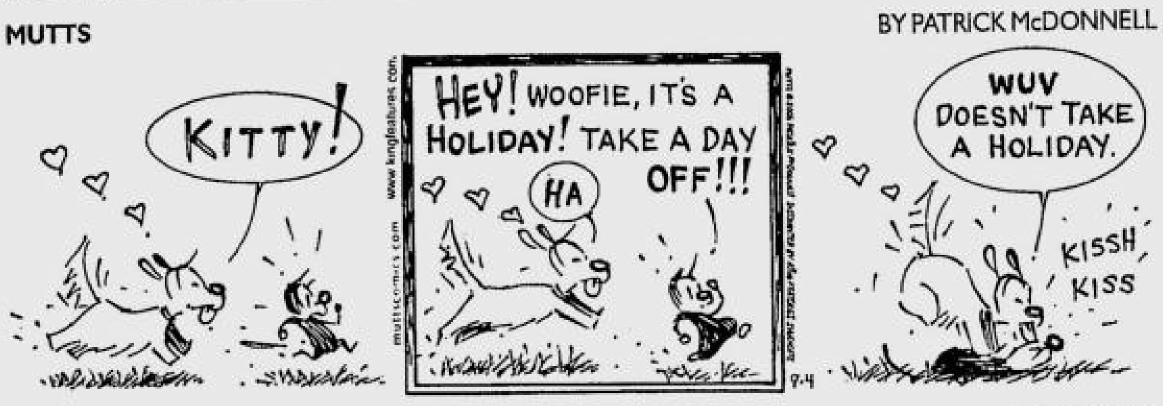
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


O, DEBBIE ... ETO NA 'YUNG BILIN MONG MGA PALAKANG-BUKID NA GALING SA PAMPANGA.
SIGURADONG MASARAP ANG MAGIGING LUTO NI DAGUL DITO.
HINDI KO NAMAN IPAPALUTO 'TO E.
PAKAKAWALAN KO ANG MGA 'TO SA LANAI NAMIN PARA KAININ 'YUNG MGA LAMOK AT KITI-KITI.
IWAS-DENGUE NGA NAMAN.
EEEEE-EEEEE!!
IKAW 'YUNG TUMILI ???
HINDE... MAY... ALE NA DUMAAN KANINA.
NASAGASAAN YATA...

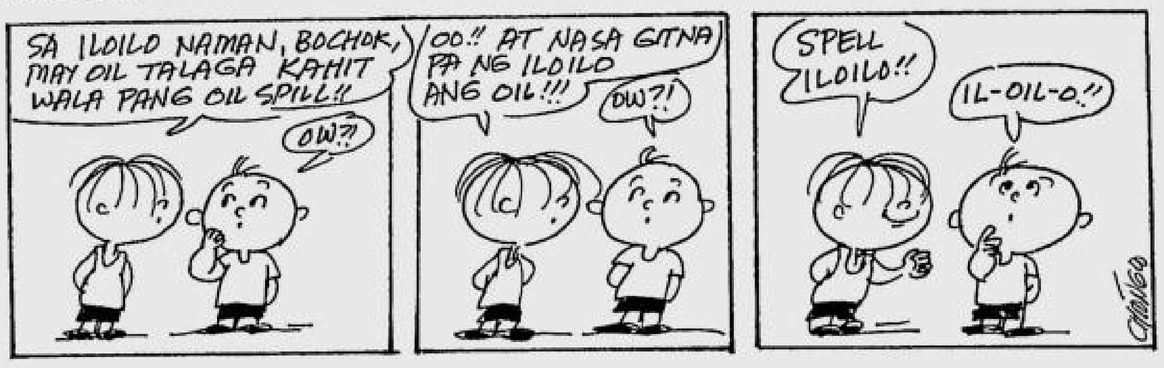
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


KITTY!
HEY! WOOFIE, IT'S A HOLIDAY! TAKE A DAY OFF!!!
HA
WUV DOESN'T TAKE A HOLIDAY.
KISSH, KISS
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
9-4

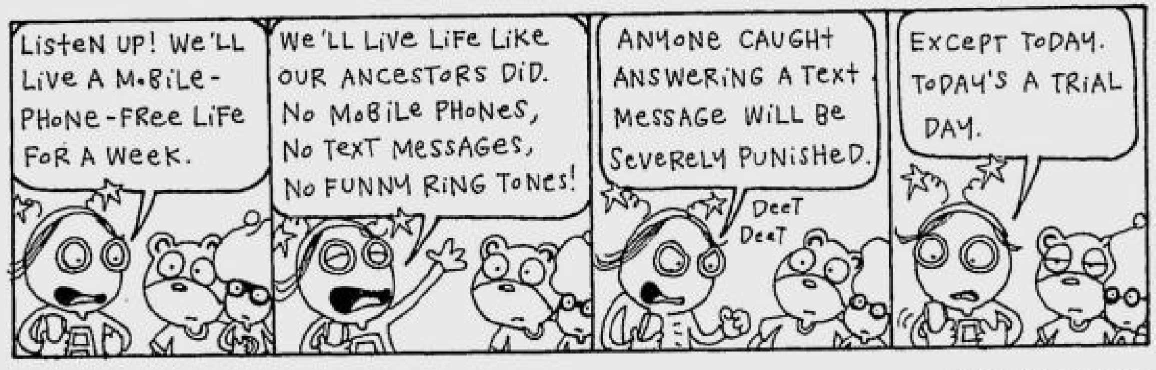
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SA ILOILO NAMAN, BOCHOK, MAY OIL TALAGA KAHIT WALA PANG OIL SPILL!!
OW?!
OO!! AT NASA GITNA PA NG ILOILO ANG OIL!!!
DW?!
SPELL ILOILO!!
IL-OIL-O!!

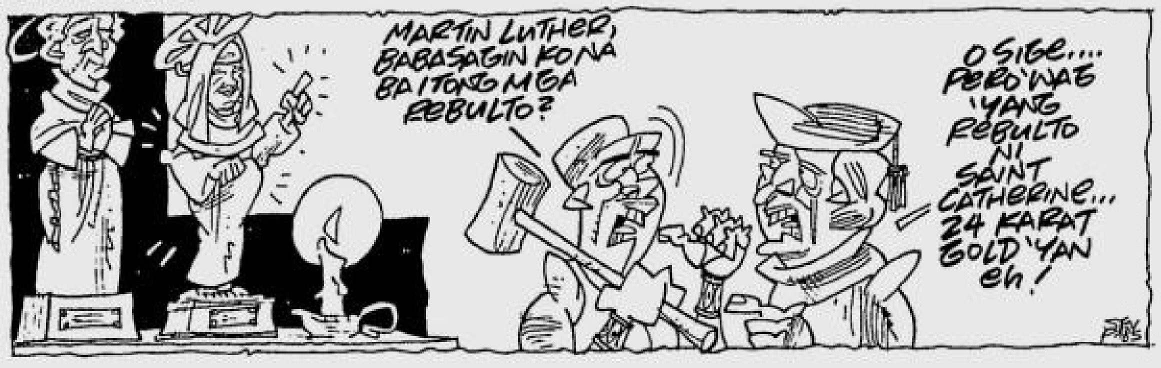
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Listen up! We'll live a mobile-phone-free life for a week.
We'll live life like our ancestors did. No mobile phones, no text messages, no funny ring tones!
Anyone caught answering a text message will be severely punished.
DeeT DeeT
Except today. Today's a trial day.

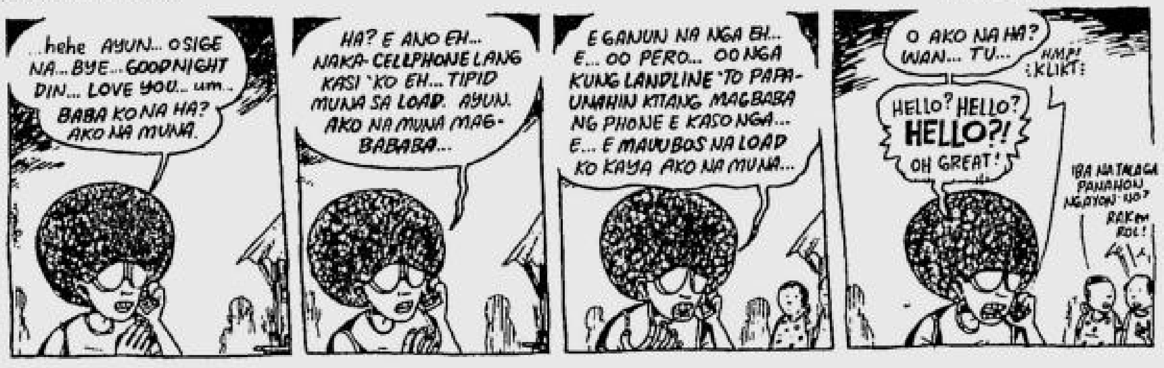
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MARTIN LUTHER, BABASAGIN KO NA BA ITONG MGA REBULTO?
O SIGE.... PERO 'WAG 'YANG REBULTO NI SAINT CATHERINE... 24 KARAT GOLD 'YAN eh!

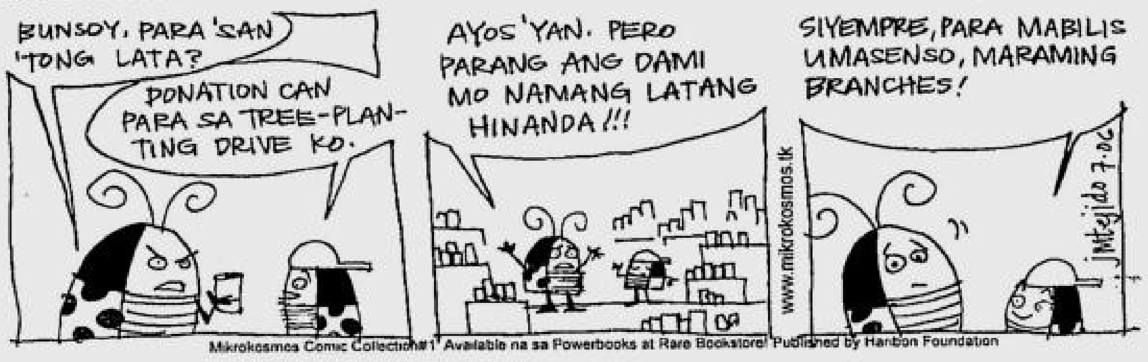
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


...hehe AYUN... OSIGE NA... BYE... GOODNIGHT DIN... LOVE YOU... um.. BABA KO NA HA? AKO NA MUNA.
HA? E ANO EH... NAKA-CELLPHONE LANG KASI 'KO EH... TIPID MUNA SA LOAD. AYUN. AKO NA MUNA MAG-BABABA...
E GANUN NA NGA EH... E... OO PERO... OO NGA KUNG LANDLINE 'TO PAPA-UNAHIN KITANG MAGBABA NG PHONE E KASO NGA... E... E MAUUBOS NA LOAD KO KAYA AKO NA MUNA...
O AKO NA HA? WAN... TU...
HMP! KLIKT!
HELLO? HELLO? HELLO?! OH GREAT!
IBA NA TALAGA PANAHON NGAYON 'NO?
RAKEN ROL!

MIKROKOSMOS

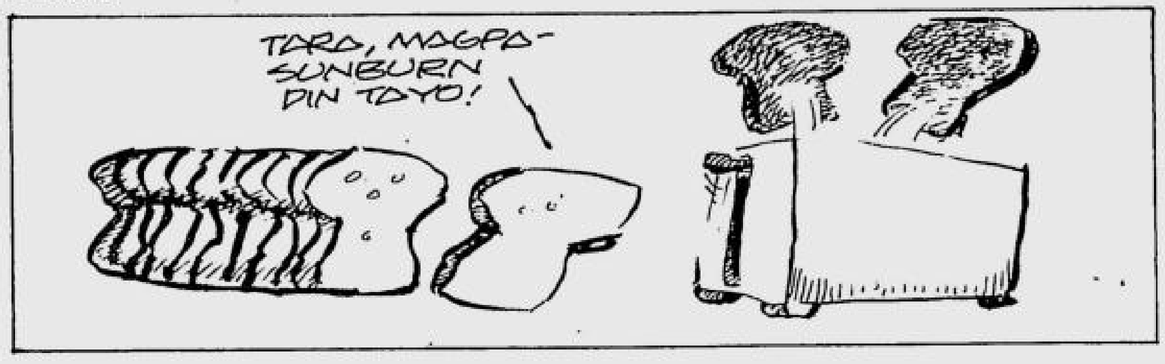
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BUNSOY, PARA 'SAN 'TONG LATA?
DONATION CAN PARA SA TREE-PLANTING DRIVE KO.
AYOS 'YAN. PERO PARANG ANG DAMI MO NAMANG LATANG HINANDA!!!
SIYEMPRE, PARA MABILIS UMASENSO, MARAMING BRANCHES!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
jmtejido 7.06

Mikrokosmos Comic Collection#1 Available na sa Powerbooks at Rare Bookstore! Published by Hanbon Foundation

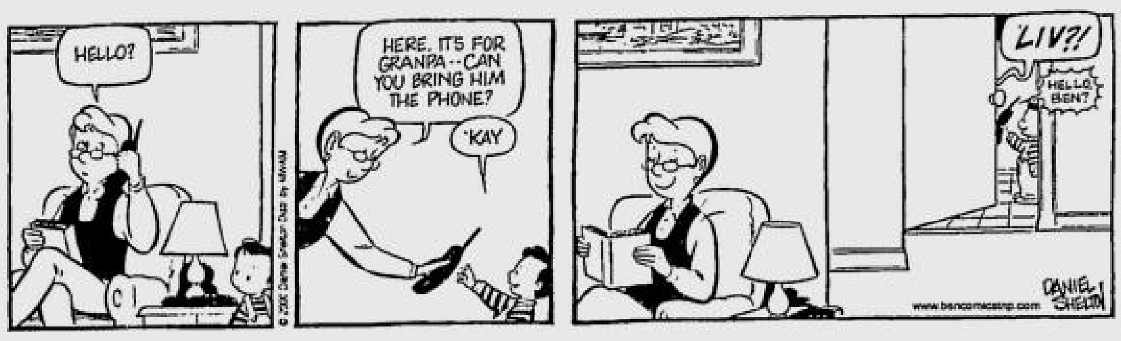
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

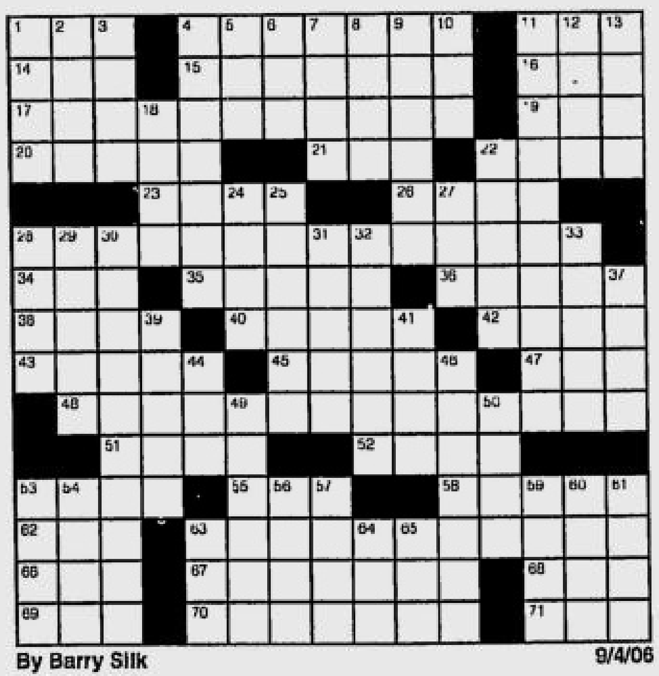

TARA, MAGPA-SUNBURN DIN TAYO!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HELLO?
HERE. IT'S FOR GRANPA--CAN YOU BRING HIM THE PHONE?
'KAY
LIV?!
HELLO, BEN?
www.bencomicstrip.com
DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Barry Silk
McLean, VA
9/4/06

ACROSS
1 Juice drink
4 Pungent gas
11 TV schedule abbr.
14 Trail persistently
15 London turnkeys
16 __ and weave
17 Mouse action
19 Texas tea
20 Begin's peace partner
21 Chip off the old block
22 Nothing but
23 Van Gogh's brother
26 As to
28 Royal pair
34 Compass dir.
35 Much inclined
36 "Whole __ Love"
38 Skedaddled
40 Basketry willow
42 Appear
43 Conical home
45 Actress Braga
47 Exist
48 Skipping stones game
51 __-a-porter (ready-to-wear clothing)
52 Splinter group
53 Interstate's tree-lined bro
55 Primary color
58 Flavoring seed
62 Roman crowd?
63 Simple rules
66 K.C. winter hrs.
67 Apple pie order?
68 Comprehend
69 Cigar dropping
70 Turns red
71 Mammal's triplets?

DOWN
1 Attaches
2 "__ the Explorer"
3 My word!
4 Christie and others
5 Adult male
6 Up-to-date
7 Part of R.E.O.
8 Sleuth Wolfe
9 Unexpected, yet fitting
10 Small viper
11 Chophouse offering
12 Quiver with rage
13 With competence
18 Ticket sales
22 Nabisco favorites
24 Within: pref.
25 Black Sea port
27 Org. of Flyers
28 Skillful
29 Lacking a guide
30 Stay informed about
31 Sanders of football and baseball
32 Overturns
33 Cubic measure
37 Iowa State city
39 Condemn
41 Take the bus
44 __ out a living
46 Video-game parlors
49 Leisurely walk
50 Element fig.
53 Print measure
54 __ and tell
56 Jacob's twin
57 Beaver projects
59 "Picnic" dramatist
60 Plant part
61 Ballpark figs.
63 Smidgen
64 Japanese drama
65 Ike's initials

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	R	I	P	O	S	A		S	H	E	R	P	A
E	C	O	N	O	M	I	C		P	A	T	E	R	S
N	E	S	C	I	E	N	T		O	R	A	T	E	S
O	R	E	O		N	E	U	T	R	A	L	I	T	Y
R	O	O	M	S		W	A	R	T	S		N	O	R
A	S	L	E	E	P		T	O	S	S		U	R	I
H	E	A	T	E	R		E	T	C		M	E	S	A
			A	P	E	S		H	A	L	O			
A	P	E	X		T	U	G		R	A	R	I	N	G
D	O	N		S	T	I	R		S	I	T	T	E	R
A	L	D		T	I	N	A	S		D	I	E	G	O
P	E	E	P	I	N	G	T	O	M		C	R	A	W
T	A	M	A	L	E		I	N	I	T	I	A	T	E
E	X	I	L	E	S		N	A	R	R	A	T	O	R
R	E	C	E	S	S		G	R	O	A	N	E	R	S

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9/4/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have strong organizational skills. You understand how to build structures both tangible and otherwise. You like to bring things together and build systems wherever possible. You're a problem-solver. You build a strong base and work from there. You're never sloppy or hasty. Expect an important choice to arise this year. Choose wisely.

Birthdate of: Mike Piazza, baseballer; Beyonce Knowles, singer; Damon Wayans, actor/comedian.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): The best way to start this week off is with a strong determination to get better organized. De-clutter where you work and where you live. Eliminating clutter goes a long way toward promoting efficiency and effectiveness in your life.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You like good food, good drink, good partnerships and a nice place to live. You often collect things, as well. Enjoy the good life this week. Make plans to party!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Home, family and real estate are your primary focus now. Talk to family members. Get better organized at home.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): It's a busy week! Short trips, errands, shopping, buying and selling, negotiating and increased discussions with siblings keep you hopping. You feel an urge to communicate with others.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're watching your finances closely now. Trust your current moneymaking ideas. It looks like they are going to pay off! Yay!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): The Sun, Mercury and Mars are all in your sign. This hugely energizes you now. You're out there with your colors flying—eager to talk to everyone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Try to work behind the scenes as much as possible. Or at least, work alone. It will be hard for you to get credit for your efforts. However, this doesn't bother you right now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your popularity rating is strong now. Everyone wants to see you. Enjoy schmoozing with friends and groups. Talk to people about your plans and goals for the future. (Get their feedback.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Parents, bosses, VIPs and authority figures definitely notice you now. Without doing anything extra on your part, you impress these people! It's just in the stars. (Milk this for all it's worth.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): It's important to break from routine and do something different. You're hungry to learn anything new or experience some adventure in life! You want a change.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're on a self-help kick. In some fashion, you want to become a better person. You might see practical applications for shared resources or the property that somebody else owns.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're totally focused on partnerships and close friendships now. If you observe your dealings with others, you can learn more about yourself.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

2	4		6	8	7		5	1
5								4
	6						8	
		5		1		2		
		7	8	2	6	1		
		6		4		7		
	5						7	
9								3
7	8		4	6	3		1	9

Difficulty Level ★
9/04

2006 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	5	9	4	6	8	3	1	2
2	4	1	3	7	5	8	9	6
8	3	6	1	9	2	4	5	7
3	2	8	7	5	6	9	4	1
9	1	5	8	2	4	7	6	3
4	6	7	9	3	1	5	2	8
5	8	4	6	1	3	2	7	9
1	7	2	5	8	9	6	3	4
6	9	3	2	4	7	1	8	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Streep starrer a film . . .

From page E6

career's best.

'Concert at the Park'

ON "CONCERT at the Park" this month, the special offerings are: Sept. 9, "Kadyangan," featuring an Ifugao group that specializes in ethno-tribal earth music promoting Filipino culture, peace, humanism and the environment. Sept. 16, "Ibong Adarna," a Gantimpala Theater Foundation presentation. Sept. 24, "Ang Pamilyang Pilipino," a concert on family values featuring Peta's "Mga Kwento ni Lola Basyang" and the Bayanihan Philippine Dance Company.

'Lisensyadong Kamao'

MANNY Pacquiao's movie, "Lisensyadong Kamao," is now on video. The boxing champion plays a *probinsyano* who goes to Manila to make money to support his sick mother (**Daria Ramirez**) and blind sister (**Bianca Pulmona**).

Feedback

A CONCERNED reader criticizes Boob-Tube Booboos in no uncertain terms: "Is it possible Torre didn't hear well or the guests didn't pronounce well, or that they were not Tagalog and therefore their grammar or pronunciation didn't meet his high standard?

"But, why criticize? Why the sarcasm? Why ridicule? Why feed on and publicize the shortcomings of other people? There ought to be a law against people who maliciously publicize other people's shortcomings, especially when they profit from it."

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CRANK

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LITTLE MAN 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40	CLICK 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30	
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX	SNAKES ON A PLANE 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40	CRANK 1:30 / 3:35 / 5:40 / 7:45 / 9:50	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 12:40 / 3:25 / 6:10 / 8:55

ALIMALL 5

1	YOU ARE THE ONE 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30	CRANK 12:25 / 2:30 / 4:35 / 6:40 / 8:45	MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
4	LITTLE MAN 11:55 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35	SNAKES ON A PLANE 11:55 / 2:05 / 4:15 / 6:25 / 8:35	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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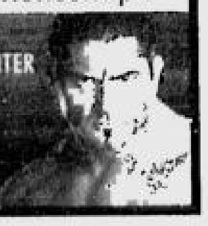

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YOU ARE THE ONE PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	SNAKES ON A PLANE PG13 1:45,3:55	CRANK PG13 2:20,4:20,6:20, 8:20,10:20
DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 1:35,3:55,6:15,8:35	LITTLE MAN R13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55	DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 1:05,3:25,5:45, 8:05,10:30

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1	LITTLE MAN 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	R-13
2	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00	PG-13
3	YOU ARE THE ONE 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 10:00	PG-13
4	CRANK 1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15, 10:30	PG-13

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
MTRCB PG-13 (P150)
12 00, 2.30, 5:00, 7:30, 10.00

2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
MTRCB R-13 (P150)
12 40, 3.00, 5.20

3 YOU ARE THE ONE
MTRCB PG-13 (P99.00)
12,05, 2.30, 4.55, 7.20, 9.45

4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
MTRCB PG-13 (P 99.00)
1.00, 3.15, 5:30, 7.45, 10.00

PREMIERE THEATRE
CRANK (SNEAK PREVIEW) P170
1:40, 3 45, 5 50, 7:55, 10:00 (PG-13)

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6:15, 8:25, 10:35
PG-13

CINEMA 2 SNAKES ON A PLANE // LITTLE MAN
11:45, 2:05, 4:20
// 6.15, 8:20, 10:25
PG-13 // R-13

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CINEMA 3 CRANK
11:20, 1:35, 3:50
6:05, 8:20, 10:35
R-13

CINEMA 4 YOU ARE THE ONE
11:20, 2:00, 4:40
7:20, 10:00
GP

CINEMA 5 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
11:35, 2:20, 5:05
7:50, 10:35
PG-13

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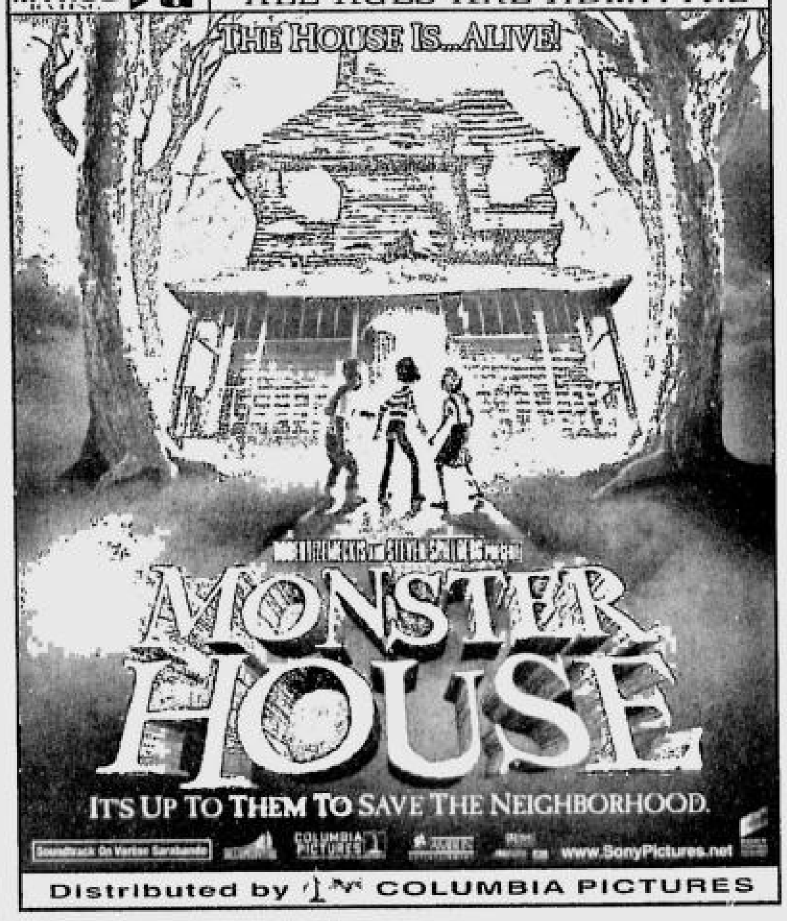

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(DOLBY) CRANK (SNEAK PREVIEW)

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
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3 YOUR AR THE ONE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 MORTUARY

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3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

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FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
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2 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND
3 CLICK
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
5 YOUR AR THE ONE
6 LITTLE MAN
7 CRANK (SNEAK PREVIEW)
8 SNAKES ON A PLANE
9 MORTUARY
10 YOUR AR THE ONE

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE
2 (DOLBY) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 (DOLBY) SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

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Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
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5 CRANK (SNEAK PREVIEW)

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3 ALIPIN
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Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 MIAMI VICE
2 AMERICAN HAUNTING

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2 (DOLBY) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
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3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 S. P. L.

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2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 SEE NO EVIL

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2 THE BREAK UP
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 CLICK

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2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 LITTLE MAN

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2 OH MY GHOST

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2 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
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2 MASAKIT WAG IPILIT

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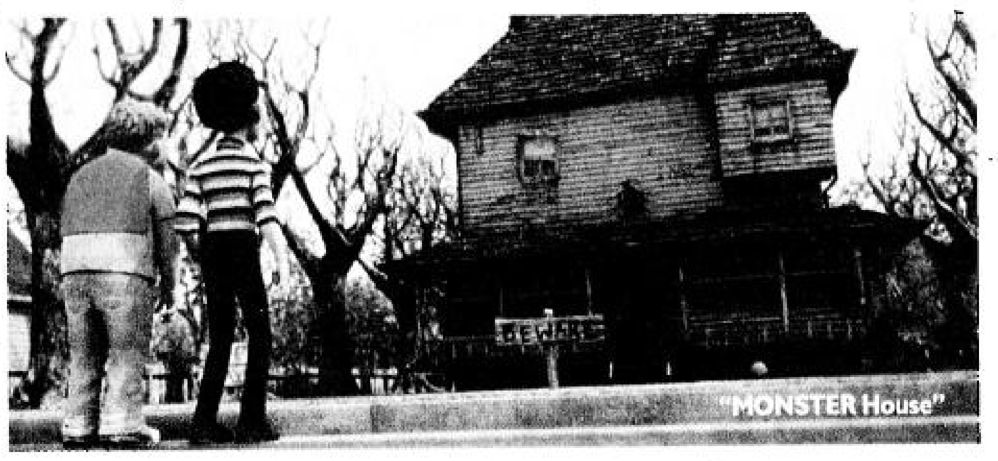


"MONSTER House"

Sweet and surreal treat

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

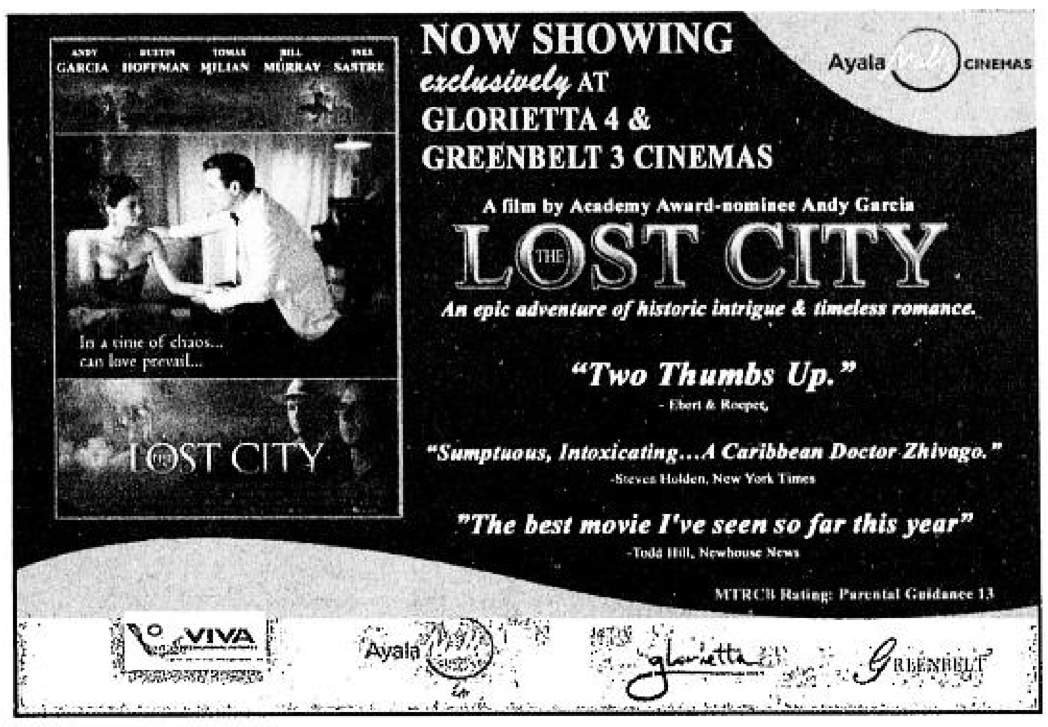
IF "MONSTER HOUSE" HAD BEEN A SPEcial effects-filled live-action movie like "Zathura" instead of a digitally animated one, it would still work. It's easy to come to that conclusion, even before discovering via the film's production notes that, indeed, it wasn't originally planned as a cartoon. In any case, the final product has enough thrills going for it, and it works as a unique, family-friendly cartoon. The dynamic visuals allow a lot of room for exaggeration, whether that requires some bending of the laws of physics, or a more extreme, Tim Burton-esque color palette. In this dimension, it's easy to suspend disbelief.

Thanks to motion-capture technology, the characters' movements and physical behavior are fluid. Their designs strike a balance between reality and caricature. They look nothing like the statuesque and unsettling virtual cast of "The Polar Express." What they look like, are the cartoony but still very recognizable humans of the recent "Ant Bully." But as with other animated features, the most important facets are the characters' personalities.

The heroes are written as smart and brave tweens who don't get on your nerves. They're underdogs that you'd actually root for. DJ, Chowder and Jenny become fast allies in a secret war against a haunted house across the street. Believing that the house is possessed, the trio try in vain to convince their adult guardians and some cops that the structure is alive and attacking anyone who sets foot on its front lawn. Their mission: Stop the house before it "eats" Halloween trick-or-treaters!

The witty script conjures up conflicts between the supernatural force and the reluctant protectors and also discusses generation gaps and puberty. It provides a fresh spin on the old haunted house idea.

The voice talents—among them Steve Buscemi, Kathleen Turner, Jason Lee and Maggie Gyllenhaal—are special and fun-gathering. Co-executive-produced by giants Steven Spielberg and Robert Zemeckis, and directed by newcomer Gil Kenan, "Monster House" is a sweet and surreal pre-Halloween treat.



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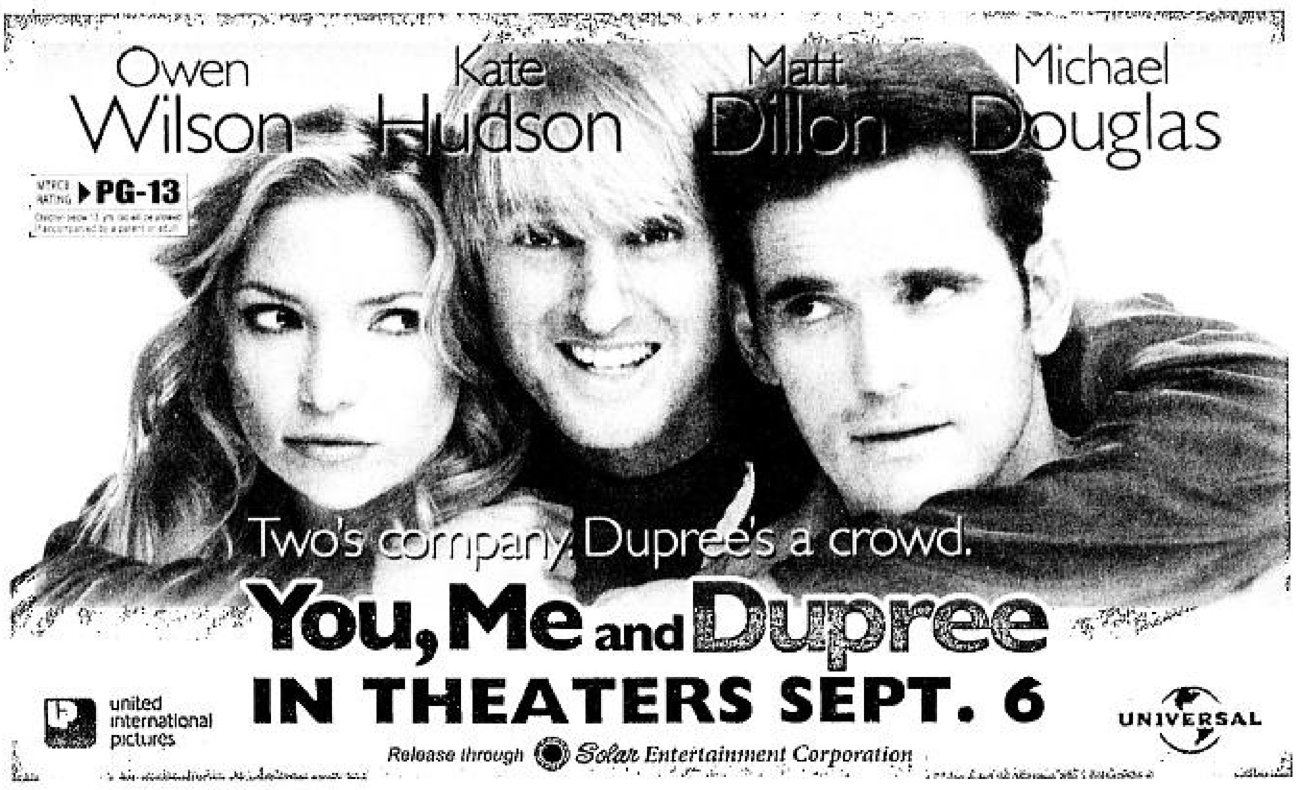

Owen Wilson
Kate Hudson
Matt Dillon
Michael Douglas
MTRCB RATING PG-13
Two's company. Dupree's a crowd.
You, Me and Dupree
IN THEATERS SEPT. 6
united international pictures
UNIVERSAL
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IN THEATERS SEPT. 06
Be careful what you search for.
NICOLAS CAGE
THE WICKER MAN
DOLBY DIGITAL IN SELECTED THEATRES
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MTRCB RATING PG13
EXTREME CAUTION IS ADVISED FOR ADULTS TO ADVISE THE YOUNG AUDIENCE AGAINST THE NEGATIVE VALUES OF THE SECT THAT IS PORTRAYED IN THE MOVIE.
Millennium
SATURN
EFF

Big deal for 'Kubrador'

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE PRODUCER OF THE AWARD-winning Jeffrey Jeturian film "Kubrador" is set to ink a 25-year worldwide distribution deal with Cinemavault Releasing International, INQUIRER Entertainment learned on Friday.

Cinemavault, a Toronto-based outfit currently representing over 280 movies, operates primarily as an international sales entity for independent films.

"I'm studying the contract very carefully. After all, I'll be binding 'Kubrador' to them for 25 years," MLR Films producer Joji Alonso said.

Two weeks ago, Cinemavault confirmed its interest in "Kubrador" through an e-mail sent by Michael Paszt, vice president for acquisition.

Among Cinemavault's famed art house releases are "Sexual Dependency," "Innocence," "Tale of a Naughty Girl" and "Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner," which won at the Cannes and Hawaii International Film Festivals.

Alonso said Cinemavault has big plans for "Kubrador," including dubbing it in French, Spanish and English, "so that the movie could be sold to more countries."

She said MLR Films likewise received inquiries on sales and distribution from Stephen A. Oxman Jr., director of Film Sales Company (which represents the controversial "Fahrenheit 9/11"), and Seiji Park of New Line Cinema (producer of the "Lord of the Rings" series).

Trailblazer

According to talent manager Ed Instrella, the interest on "Kubrador" could help pave the way for other good Filipino films in the international market.

"If we don't get much from local sales, foreign market *ang bubuhay sa* industry," Instrella said. "This is exactly what happened to the Japanese and Korean film industries. MLR Films' decision could work for other Pinoy indie films."

Instrella line-produced Mel Chionglo's "Sibak," a controversial sexy film in the '90s, written by Ricky Lee. It was sold to 14 distributors worldwide and shown in 21 countries.

"If this pans out well, local producers wouldn't have to worry if their movies don't make much here," said Instrella.

"Kubrador" recently received its 17th invitation from the Tokyo International Film Festival, where it will be screened in the Winds of Asia section. The festival runs from Oct. 21 to 29.

"With Cinemavault as agent, MLR need not worry about promotions when 'Kubrador' competes in international film fests," Instrella noted.

"Kubrador" is a strong contender, along with "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," as the country's entry in the Best Foreign Film category of the next Oscars. The Film Academy of the Philippines is expected to announce its decision this week.

No battle between 2 Ninoy movies

By Nini Valera

THERE IS NO BATTLE BETWEEN TWO Ninoy movies—not yet, anyway.

Movie producer Donna Villa told INQUIRER Entertainment in an exclusive interview last week that she and husband, director Carlo J. Caparas, are still in initial discussions with the soldiers convicted in the 1983 Aquino-Galman double murder.

"If we do a movie [about it], it would have to reveal something new," Villa said.

The couple went to the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa on Monday to "listen" to the soldiers' story. Msgr. Robert Olaguer, prison chaplain, had reportedly sent out feelers as early as March 2005 about producing a movie based on the former soldiers' point of view.

Actor-producer Cesar Montano earlier announced he was making a Ninoy biopic next year with the blessings of the martyred senator's widow, former President Cory Aquino.

Who was ahead?

In a phone interview on Friday, Montano said he was surprised that Caparas was planning his own Ninoy movie. "As a fellow filmmaker, I personally wouldn't have done that, knowing that a similar project was underway," said the actor-director.

Villa clarified that the idea of a Ninoy project for her Golden Lions Films production outfit was hatched in 2005. "I was ahead of Cesar," she pointed out. "Maybe he shouldn't be doing his movie."

Track record

Golden Lions has produced a string of true-life movies based on crime stories, among them "The Maggie dela Riva Story" and "Vizconde Massacre." Its last offering was "The Chavit Singson Story" released in 2003. Montano starred as the controversial Chavit Singson, self-confessed "jueteng" lord whose revelations brought down the Estrada administration.

"The idea of a movie based on the convicts' version of the truth is very tempting," Villa said. "But we have to think about it carefully. That's why it took us a long time to talk about the project publicly."

In searching for the "truth," Caparas intends to go by his own "one-bullet, one-triggerman theory."

He explained to INQUIRER Entertainment: "Only one bullet killed Ninoy. How come 16 people were convicted?"

He compared the Ninoy-Galman killings to the assassination of American President John F. Kennedy: "Lee Harvey Oswald was officially declared Kennedy's killer. But after more than three decades, questions about who really did it are still being asked."

Caparas continued: "We believe in the court's decision. We believe in the rule of law. But we can still explore the possibility that the soldiers tagged as killers are also telling the truth."

At this point, Montano doesn't see real conflict between the two projected movies.

In the phone interview, the actor, who is starring as Ninoy in the movie that he himself is producing—under the direction of Marilou Diaz-Abaya—said his version is all about "Ninoy, the man, husband and father."

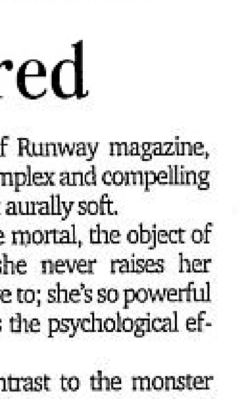
A small part

The assassination scene at the airport tarmac, Montano said, could be the most sensitive part in terms of execution, but would still be "just a small portion of the whole."

In other words, he said, "We will not be challenging history by tackling the court decision on the double murder case. I'm pretty sure the two movies will be very different from one another."

Streep starrer a film to be savored

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

SOME FILMS ARE ENJOYED, AND A FEW ARE savored. "The Devil Wears Prada" belongs to this second category—not because it's a great film, but due to **Meryl Streep**'s superlative portrayal of the "evil" title character, a "Dragon Lady" who makes life hell for the people who work for her.

Streep's characterization of Miranda Priestly, the all-powerful editor-in-chief of Runway magazine, "bible" of haute couture, is complex and compelling because it is visually hard, but aurally soft.

When she glares at a mere mortal, the object of her ire disintegrates—but she never raises her voice. Indeed, she doesn't have to; she's so powerful that her softest utterance has the psychological effect of a grenade blast.

To provide instructive contrast to the monster editor's ethos, it is viewed through the naive eyes of Andy, a fresh Journalism graduate (**Anne Hathaway**) who applies for the coveted position of her assistant (translation: slave).

The callow tyro is bright and principled, but she's an ignoramus when it comes to haute couture. So, why does the exacting editor hire her? Because she's had it with fashionable but incompetent assistants, and is hoping that the brainy newcomer will prove to be a less irritating and more resourceful employee.

For her part, the assistant doesn't want to spend the rest of her life at Runway, but is hoping that it can lead to contacts in "real" print journalism.

This is a career plan that her parents and friends can't fathom, and they're secretly disappointed.

In time, Hathaway's character does end up impressing her bitchy boss. She even learns how to dress fashionably, thanks to the grudging help of the magazine executive played by **Stanley Tucci**.

But her ascendancy exacts a terrible price on her personal happiness, as her friends are turned off and her lover can't put up with having to play second fiddle to her bitch-goddess career.

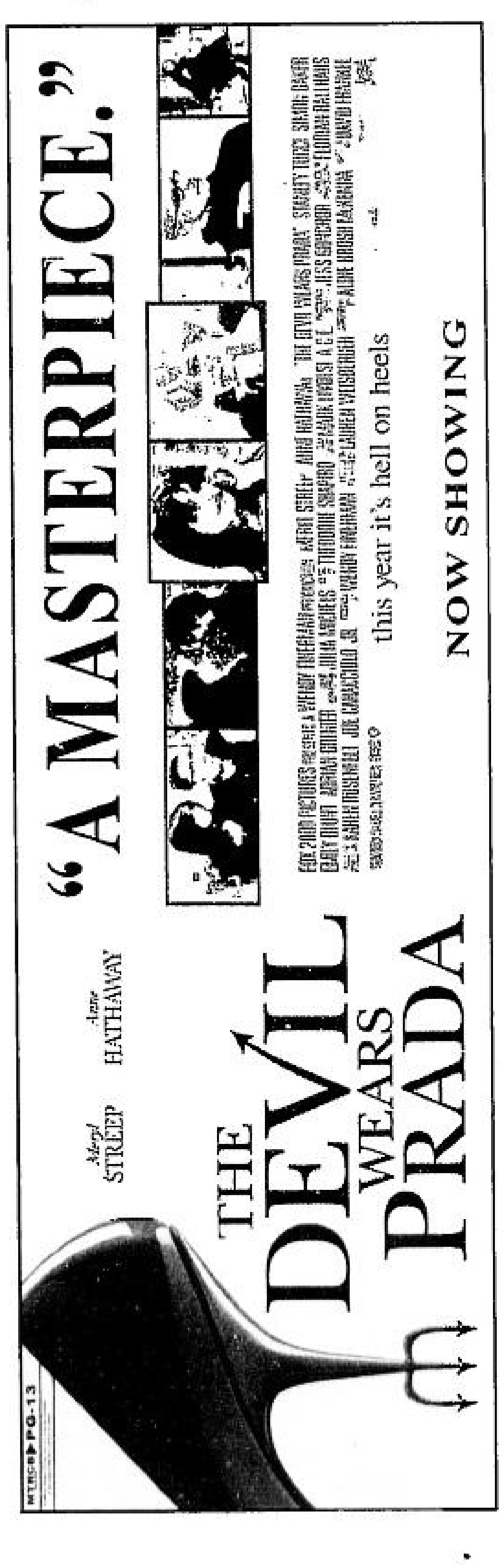
Ironically, just as the assistant becomes more and more like her "monstrous" boss and great success thus awaits her in fashion journalism, her horror at the compromises the trade requires prompts her to step on the brakes and opt out of her new career's upward trajectory.

This is a strong character arc for Hathaway, but the young actress still can't match Streep's subtle and complex depiction—a feat made more impressive by her character's relatively static development, compared to the assistant's roller-coaster progression throughout the movie.

By rights, this should make Streep's portrayal less compelling and empathetic, but it ends up as the film's fulcrum due to Streep's astounding capacity for making the most out of seemingly little.

It doesn't take a cinematic visionary to predict that acting nominations—and even awards—are in store for Meryl Streep next year, for her superlative portrayal in "The Devil Wears Prada"—one of her

STREEP E5



"A MASTERPIECE."
this year it's hell on heels
NOW SHOWING
Meryl STREEP
Anne HATHAWAY
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
MTRCB PG-13

Galing Pilipino Movement

kabataan ko, BUHAY NG BAYAN KO!

Will you be mY (MTV Youth) hero?

By Joshua Young, *age 14, Jubilee Christian Academy*

AS NATIONAL HEROES' DAY COMES AND goes, an important question arises - who is a hero worthy of our honor and emulation? From showbiz stars to American Idols; or Enrique Iglesias crooning "I Can Be Your Hero", government officials to social activists, many different people demand to be recognized as heroes. The youth of today are persistently searching for models of faith and ideals, and groping for the values that can guide them through life, but it is rare to find a person with such characteristics in this "crisis of self-proclaimed heroes". We have since forsaken the great lives which have honored our country, living day to day "numbed by negativism, crushed by cynicism, drowned by despair" as though without a candle to guide the way.

Many feel disappointment because evil, greed and apathy are the only things that dominate the news. The heroes, however, are not given due attention and they are simply ignored. But if one looks and searches hard, there are still dedicated citizens who do their best and fulfill their responsibility to our country. Today's unidentified heroes range from policemen who refuse bribes to teachers dedicated to develop their students' future.

We, even as ordinary citizens, should start to inculcate in ourselves and eventually the future generation, with values that endures even after the sun is gone. This notion needs people who will stand up for what they believe in. How do we do this? The answer lies in avoiding another crisis of heroes who do not live up to their speech. We must prevent at fortunes and build estates at the expense of the country.

The late National Scientist Dioscoro Umali stated that all citizens are called to heroic service in the community. Everyone has received a lasting gift in life, but only a handful uses it to the best of their ability. Even fewer maximizes it to create a better community for the following generation. These are the true heroes who have given us, and others to come, a debt that cannot be fully repaid, a supreme sacrifice that is impossible to measure.

Many heroes have one thing in common. Heroes are brave because they no fear. They have taken action in spite of their fears, and by doing so have overcome it. Most of the time, greatest joy comes after a moment of great courage. The reward for bravery to take the action will not be seen until courage moves for a cause. We must believe that we can initiate change for the better in our country. Each one of us is empowered to "pull" our country to unity and success.

In modern times, the battle is being fought not in the war front nor in the trenches, instead, it is situated in our everyday life. We must live responsibility in order to resist the evil in apathy, discouragement, deceit, laziness and rebellion. This all-out war is in itself a quiet revolution that is born out of service. It is an inward, invisible upraising to engender a new beginning (first) in yourself, then later in others.

We need not wait till we make it big before we help our country. We can and must choose, starting from this day on, to be men and women for others. From typhoon torn Aurora to war weary ARMM, pleas for help are arising. Are you willing to be a hero for others? Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, Jr. once said that the greatest form of appreciation for our heroes is not to honor them through words but to live out their ideals. One can make this nation worthy of their devotion by conquering the fear to begin the change in ourselves.

The Greek poet Horace stated that there lived many heroes before Agamemnon, the legendary hero of the Trojan wars, but all of them remained unknown and unwept because they had no spirited chronicler. I am writing in the hope, no matter how small, that those who read this can go and be the heroes previous generations dreamed of being, like the beam of light in the night that is dim that will guide the searchers through the long night till we behold the glorious dawn of our beloved nation.

GPM National Heroes Day Online Essay Writing Contest

Entries now open for viewing
Rate your choice

Students all over the country sent essays on the theme "Kabataan Ko, Buhay ng Bayan Ko"
Starting today, September 4 until September 7, these entries can be viewed and rated online.
Please log on to **www.galingpilipino.org** for details.
This contest is sponsored by www.yehey.com

First Prize, P10,000
Second Prize, P5,000
Third Prize, P3,000
Winners must donate half of their prize to the student organization of their choice

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Entrance exams for SY 2007-2008 are on Saturdays, starting Aug. 26

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Galing Pilipino Movement

kaba

BUHAY NG BA

Bisita Pilipinas Program

GPM WILL STIMULATE COUNTRYSIDE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH eco-agro tourism. The program will involve enlisting private homes, preferably ancestral houses, whose owners and caretakers are willing to participate in the development of a local bed and breakfast trade. This will be a showcase of world-renown Pilipino hospitality and the remarkable natural wonders that abound in the country.

GPM project partners in this project will train personnel to handle tourists and guests in a personalized but professional manner. GPM will develop a network of interrelationships and partnerships to promote and enhance a locale's attractiveness as a tour destination.

By highlighting what is unique and excellent in a local community, in terms of scenic attractions, local cuisine, cultural traditions and historical significance, a commendable sense of national pride and a bond of unity in diversity will be fostered. This project is envisioned to empower local communities to help the national economy grow from within. GPM intends to implant a holistic program in each accredited community.

GPM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

A holistic development program will be established in each of the communities that will participate in the GP Bisita Pilipinas program to include:

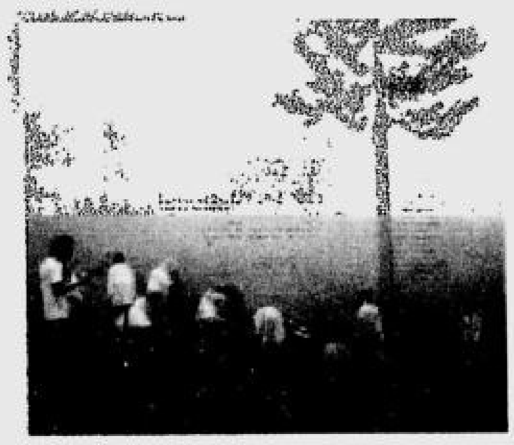
*I. **SEMINARS** on Galing Housekeeping and Galing Hospitality as well as a Galing Food Workshop for Bed and Breakfast Trade Development (in partnership with Victoria Hotel-Best Western-La Corona Group and San Miguel Pure Foods Group)*

*II. **MARKETING CONSULTANCY SERVICES** to develop local tour package options, marketing kits and tour guide training (in partnership with the Philippine Marketing Association)*

*III. **COMMUNITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS** like Natural Farming System (through Andry Lim of Davao) and Galing Negosyo Seminars*

*IV. **VALUES FORMATION PROGRAMS** like Galing Young Leaders Program, Galing Chikiting and Galing Parenting Seminars*

GPM Cagayan de Oro scales the mountains for Mother Earth and our Higa-onon brothers



GPM volunteers trek to quaint Barangay Kibalabag to plant lanzones trees and appreciate Higa-onon community life.

IT wasn't all play, there was work to be done.

LEARNING to strip abaca, the Higa-onan way.

By Carlo Manuel P. Alado

ONE DOES NOT NEED TO VISIT ANOTHER COUNTRY to experience the wonders of a different lifestyle and people. If a cultural experience is what you're looking for, you only need to travel a short distance to the beautiful mountains of Malaybalay, Bukidnon and visit our Higa-onon brothers. A group of Montessori high school students from Cagayan de Oro City did just that.

On July 21, 2006, nearly all of the students and faculty of the Abba's Orchard Erdkinder, a Galing Pilipino Movement corporate member, left for Barangay Kibalabag, a quaint little place about 16 km. from Malaybalay City. Guided by the Higa-onon Ancestral Domain's Flor "Datu Undoran" Luranza, GPM awardee Rey Gil "Datu Makadingding" Lomarda and his five GreenMinds Inc. crew, the city dwelling students experienced what life is like 1000 meters above sea level, away from the hustle and bustle of the city life.

The adolescents thoroughly enjoyed their stay. They sighed with pleasure as they breathed the cool mountain air, frolicked in the many unpolluted streams in the area; and were touched by the friendliness of the villagers, especially their host families. They were so impressed by that the community was so clean and no cigarettes and alcohol was sold anywhere. But it wasn't all play, there was work to be done.

Volunteering themselves to the "Punong-Puno ng Puno" project of GreenMinds Inc., the Erdkinder students trekked for almost two hours with their lanzones seedlings in tow through the fog-engulfed rain, slippery, muddy, and sometimes nearly vertical trails to an area along the slopes of Mount Pagalongan that has been devastated by man's callous desire to earn a buck. After a short lecture on the important role that trees play in our ecosystem, each student and teacher planted their seedlings and walked away satisfied that they helped the environment in their own little way and that the seedlings they planted will be nurtured and taken cared of by our Higa-onon brothers.

The students were also blessed with the opportunity to experience the tribe's way of working. They harvested kamote and were able to do a little abaca stripping. They enjoyed the fruits of their labor, as the kamote they harvested (considered by most as the best they've ever tasted!) ended up as an afternoon snack, and many brought strips of abaca home with them.

There was academic work to be done as well. The students were divided into groups and were tasked to interview their host families and other villagers, hoping to get an in-depth study of the place. The tribes people were asked about their culture and traditions, their village's origins and ancestry, and their government and means of livelihood. The students assigned on these topics were tasked to report when they get back to school.

Each student was also tasked to write some reflective work on their visit, and their response was heartwarming. Although they're thankful that they are more blessed in terms of material possessions, the teenagers also appreciated the beauty of the tribe's simple life and their happiness despite not having much. They saw first-hand how important the preservation of nature is, not only to the tribal community, but to us all. They learned the value of hard work and perseverance, both in terms of the villagers' livelihood, and also their own experience with grueling treks through the forest, which for some were done barefoot.

Over-all, the visit to Barangay Kibalabag was a great success. The students enjoyed themselves tremendously, yet they also learned life-changing lessons that the classroom cannot teach. Many thanks to Datu Undoran, Datu Makadingding and the rest of the GreenMinds Inc. for allowing this visit to take place; and for the kind people of Barangay Kibalabag for allowing the students to stay with them for two days.

Galing Pilipino Young Leaders Program

June 2006 - May 2007

Several initiatives have been undertaken to har
idealism and dynamism of the youth for national d
ment. GPM believes that today's Kabataan will be t
ing force that will significantly impact the current s
to enable national transformation into a Galing
generation. Various youth-oriented activities and
will be undertaken to stimulate involvement and t
op the leadership potential of this cluster. The Ga
bataan Leadership Series is geared toward equip
13 to 30 year old segment of our population for h
nation-building work through the Bisita Pilipinas p
Inspirational leadership role-modeling will b
through the Galing Pilipino Youth Council and G
Chapters in schools and communities. Student pa
tion in the GPYL Program is accredited for their N
Volunteer Service requirement.

GALING KABATAAN LEADERSHIP SERIES

Oct 7 and 14 (8am-5pm)
S-Leadership Seminar
Conducted by Selene Yu
Very highly interactive leadership workshop.

October 20-22, 2006
GP Young Leaders Camp
Hosted by La Corona de Pagsanjan
Leadership training and team building workshops are co
for the core group of the Galing Pilipino youth arm. Detail
ning for specific projects are done here.

January 13-14, 2007
GPYL Strategic Planning Workshop
Review of 2006 projects and planning for GPYL 2007-2008 p
Detailed planning for January to May 2007 activities and proj

GALING PILIPINO YOUTH KAPIH

GP Youth Kapihans are held once a month in various camp
ters and in key areas nationwide on the 2nd Saturday
month. Topics include Galing Pampagaling, Galing Negosy

PAMASKONG GALING PILIPINO 20

December 16, 2006 - January 6, 2007

PGP2006 will be celebrated as a Balikbayan Christmas
the Luneta Park from December 16, 2006 to January 6, 20
porate-sponsored Christmas trees and colored donated lig
will be on display at the Luneta and various sites around t
try. There will be a tiangge-exhibit showcase on the Bisita
sites. Daily evening cultural shows. Christmas choir comp
being contemplated by MBC, as event organizer. **At 7 p.m.
time on December 16, Pilipinos all around the world
joined to sing Pasko Na Naman as our Christmas gre
the world.**

LakBYKE MABUHAY TOUR 200

April 5-8, 2007

This event seeks to achieve a consciousness reversal in ou
vance of historical events. The Mabuhay March is an educ
cultural bike tour that will retrace in reverse the Deat
starting from Capas, Tarlac, through San Fernando, Pampa
ending in Balanga, Bataan. At each stop-over, local festiv
be organized highlighting 'Galing Pilipino' practices in th
part of the launch of GPM's Bisita Pilipinas initiative, a co
enterprise development activity that will create a bed an
fast/homestay local tourism program.

CONTACT DETAILS

FOR DONATIONS, PAYMENTS OR DIRECT DEPOSITS, GO TO ANY UNIONBANK BRANCH
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TEL. NO. (02)6313932, TELEFAX. (02)6331089; MOBILE. 0917-8354829 url: www.galingpilipino.org, e-mail: galing_pilipino@

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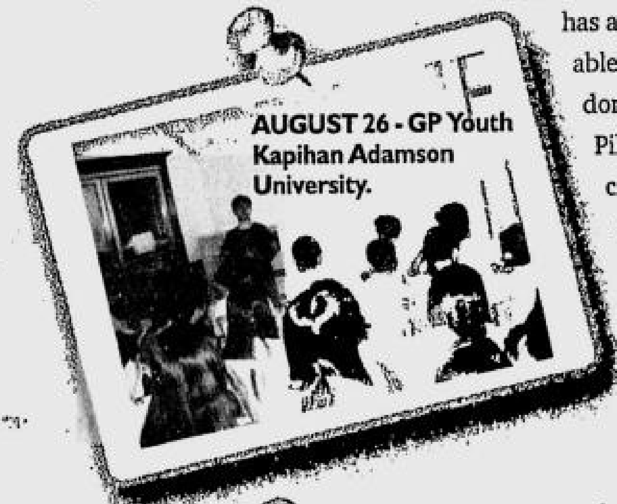
Amazing Galing Happening

Chowking
GALING PILIPINO KAPIHAN
Sa lahat ng bagay todo bigay

AUGUST 26 - I-Gilas Awarding at GP Kapihan Cagayan De Oro.



AUGUST 26 - GP Youth Kapihan Adamson University.

AUGUST 29 - GP Panunumpa at GP Kapihan Christian Values School- Bacoor, Cavite.

Galing Pilipino
Sa lahat

AUGUST 28 - Good News Tally at GP Youth Kapihan University of the Philippines-Diliman.

AUGUST 30 - GP Youth participating in Mahal Ko ang Pilipinas Conference.

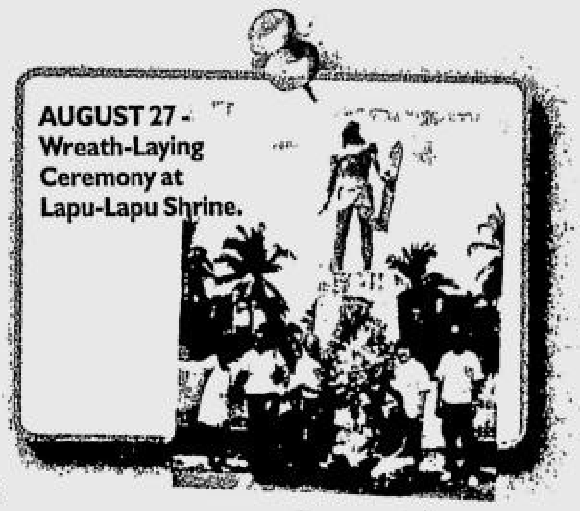
SINCE INCEPTION ON JUNE 12, 2002, THE GALING PILIPINO MOVEMENT (GPM) has achieved great strides in its advocacy. For four consecutive years, GPM has been able to muster support and resources for mounting the celebration of June 12 (Freedom Day/ GPM Anniversary), National Heroes Day and a unique Pamaskong Galing Pilipino every December. From 70 founding members in 2002, the GPM roster counts some 3,498 members to date, with 10 provincial chapters and 15 campus chapters nationwide. GPM received a grant through World Bank Panibagong Paraan 2004, an Anvil Award in 2005, a media project grant from Peace Equity Foundation in 2005 and PCNC accreditation in 2006.

GPM is doubly proud of how the National Heroes Day (NHD) celebration evolved this year. GPM chapters did something on their own. This is amazing because it was their initiative, resourcefulness and dedication to the ideals of the *galing* cause that expanded a one-day celebration into a whole week calendar of events. GPM-Cagayan de Oro began and ended the fete on several high notes. On August 26, GPM-CDO held a Heroes Dawn March, laying a wreath to honor our national hero and awarding their own local hero, Dr Alan Mellicor, in their subsequent GP Kapihan breakfast meeting. By what they did, they gave life to an ideal --- you don't have to be dead and gone to be regarded as a hero.

On August 27, GPM-Cebu held a special commemorative program at the Mactan Shrine to honor the 1st Pilipino hero, Lapu-Lapu. There, Japanese tourists were enthralled to witness this celebration of our heroic heritage together with students from St Theresa's College and the University of San Carlos. The Buhilaman, a theatre performing group in Cebu, rendered an interpretative cultural number depicting that historical event. Many campus chapters in Luzon rocked with Galing Pilipino passion as many schools held Kapihans and awarded their own Galing Pilipino heroes. Manongs and Manangs in schools who served faithfully, cheerfully, without rancor or complaint. Public servants who upheld the standards of genuine public service. Employees recognized for their extra mile service and honesty.

These many citations make real that there is a Hero in every Pilipino. GPM Head Office was amazed by the outpouring of Galing expressions from the various chapters around the country to celebrate National Heroes Day. GPM joined the Mahal Ko Ang Pilipinas conference on August 30 as a Youth anchor of the Philippines Roadmap 2030. GP Young Leaders will address this commitment by giving life to GPM's Bisita Pilipinas, a community-based tourism enterprise development program. IBC 13 aired GPM's National Heroes Day TV special featuring Atty. Alex Lacson, author of "Twelve Little Things Every Filipino Can Do To Help Our Country" and Dr. Conrado Dayrit Sr of coco loco fame. The week-long celebration was capped by a GPM Photo Exhibit at SM-Cagayan de Oro where winners of an essay-writing contest were awarded. Yehey.com partnered with GPM to mount an on-line essay writing contest on the theme: Kabataan Ko, Buhay ng Bayan Ko.

All these initiatives are a testament of the commendable spirit of volunteerism in our country. This is the Kusang-Galing we should chizmiz about. This is the force of spirit that makes the Galing Pilipino Movement move forward in re-building our nation from within. This is how the heroic can become historic. And vice-versa.



AUGUST 27 - Wreath-Laying Ceremony at Lapu-Lapu Shrine.

AUGUST 28 - GP Youth Kapihan College of the Holy Spirit Manila.

AUGUST 30 - GP TV National Heroes Day Special.

AUGUST 31 - GPM Photo Exhibit at SM City- Cagayan De Oro.

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Cagayan de Oro Chapter

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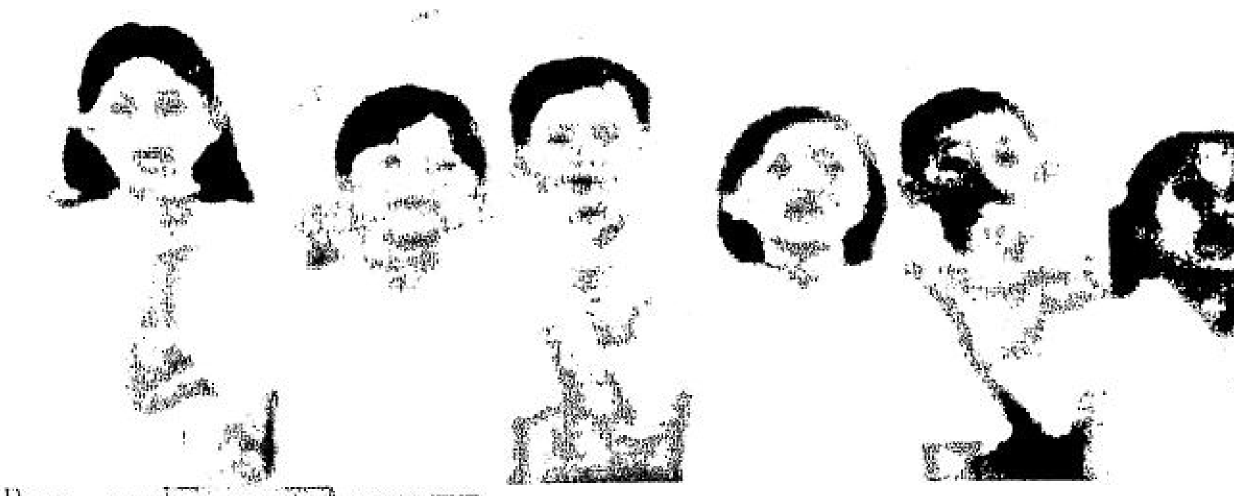
Panatang Makabayan

Galing Pilipino Movement



Iniibig ko ang Pilipinas. Ito ang aking Lupang Sinilangan.
Ito ang Tahanan ng aking Lahi
Ako ay Kanyang Kinukopkop At Tinutulungan
Upang maging Malakas, Maligaya At Kapaki-pakinabang.
Bilang Ganti, Diringgin ko Ang Payo ng Aking mga Magulang
Susundin ko Ang mga Tuntunin ng aking Paaralan
Tutuparin ko Ang mga Tungkulin
Ng Isang Mamamayang Makabayan At Masunurin sa Batas
Paglilingkuran ko ang aking Bayan
Ng walang Pag-iimbot At ng Buong Katapatan
Sisikapin maging Isang tunay na Pilipino
Sa Isip... sa Salita.... at sa Gawa.

THE GALING PILIPINO MOVEMENT acknowledges the invaluable support of its partners and like-minded believers in rekindling a sense of patriotism through the revival of the Panatang Makabayan in our social consciousness. By affirming our Pledge of Allegiance to love our country and to serve our countrymen, we choose to believe in the good and Galing in the Pilipino. By keeping our word and upholding these vows, in spirit and in deed, we shall restore our nation to its God-given destiny of blessing and greatness.

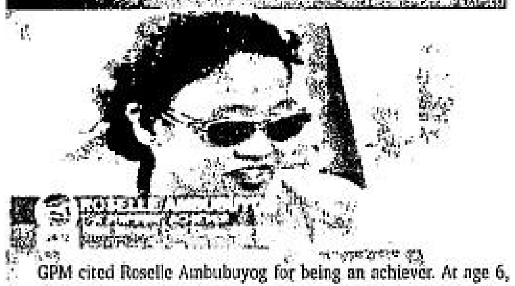
Salamat sa Chowking, Victoria Court Group at sa Mindcom: nabuo ang paglikha ng Panatang Makabayan TV and Cinema ad sa abot-kaya ng GPM.

Salamat sa Philippine Daily Inquirer: naumpisahan ang proyektong ito dahil minabuti nilang itanghal ang Panatang Makabayan ad sa halip ng kanilang ad sa mga sinehang kaugnay nila sa negosyo --- Robinsons Cinemas at Ayala Cinemas.

Salamat sa KBP sa pamumuno ni Jun Nicdao at Butch Canoy: itinulot nilang ipalabas itong Panatang Makabayan TV ad sa mga kaugnay nilang broadcast networks.

Salamat sa Pacific Air Ads: kusa nilang ipinalabas ang Panatang Makabayan ad sa mga 120" Holoscreen nila sa Glorieta 4 at Shopwise outlets.

BE INSPIRED BY THESE GALING PILIPINO HEROES



GPM cited Roselle Ambubuyog for being an achiever. At age 6, Roselle lost here eyesight to a mysterious ailment, later diagnosed as Steven Johnson's syndrome, an intolerance to ordinary medication. Despite her handicap, she consistently topped her classes, earned a mathematics degree at the Ateneo as a valedictorian, and now a consultant for a Florida-based company that develops talking computers and blind-friendly I.T. systems.

SPO2 Corpuz risked his life to defend bus passengers from three gunmen in Edsa. He was in a bus on his way to work when 3 armed holduppers started robbing passengers of their money and valuables. Outnumbered, Corpuz properly sized the situation, and shot it out with the gunmen hitting all three without hurting any passengers. During the fight, he was wounded in the right arm. Yet he switched his pistol to his left arm and defeated the gunmen. This feat earned him the Medalya ng Kagitingan and the PNP Wounded Personnel Medal.

According to her "Intelligence is common, but the key to success is intelligence plus character. My experience at UWCAd made me proud of my roots, of my culture. It made me value the morals I have been taught at home. It has broadened my points of views and made me a better person. It encouraged me to achieve more." Dianne Reyes is the Philippine representative to the United World College of Adriatic (UWCAd), Trieste, Italy, 2003-2005, the only Filipino in her class of 200+ scholars from 83 countries. She gave the valedictory address to an international audience during her graduation last May 2005, which was interrupted several times by applause and ended with a standing ovation from the audience. She earned a scholarship worth P9.2M for a 4-year course in Economics & International Relations at the Wellesley College, alma mater of Hillary Clinton and Margaret Albright.

"I'd like to give foreigners the impression that Filipinos are honest by nature." This was the thought of 13-year old Maria Melissa "EmEm" Rivera when she returned a bag containing a passport and nearly PhP1 million worth of cash and jewelry, which she found in a public toilet in a gas station somewhere in Batangas. She and her family purposely went to Manila to personally return the bag to its rightful owner, a Taiwanese investor in the hotel industry who was on a business trip here in the country. Upon meeting EmEm, the Taiwanese lady bowed profusely in gratitude to her young hero.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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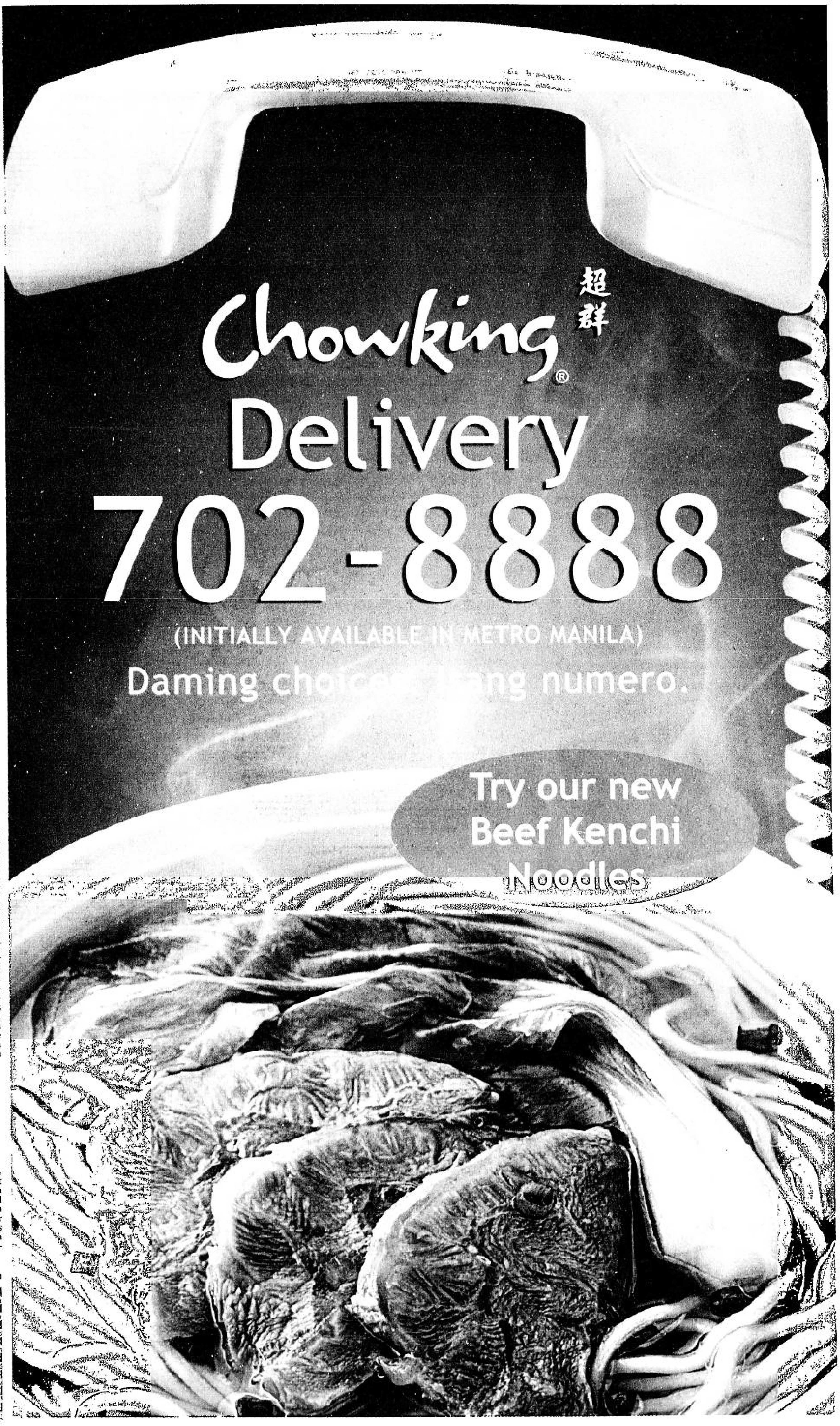
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